

East German government resigns

EAST BERLIN (AP) — East Germany's Communist-dominated government resigned Tuesday and called on parliament to elect a new cabinet. Government spokesman Wolfgang Meyer told a hastily-convened news conference that the government had decided at a meeting Tuesday to step down and carry on as a caretaker government until a new cabinet was formed. "The government appeals to all citizens of the country in this politically and economically serious situation to exert all efforts to keep running all functions necessary for the people, society and the economy," he said in a statement. He declined to answer questions at the five-minute session. The surprise announcement came as the Communist Party's ruling politburo met in advance of an important session of the policy-making Central Committee starting Wednesday. Wednesday's meeting will consider the growing political crisis in the country of 16.6 million people. East Germany's government, made up almost entirely of Communist Party members with a sprinkling of allied party representatives, has traditionally been little more than the means for the Communists to put their policies into effect.

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Bush hopes for hostages' release

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush said Tuesday he hoped the U.S. decision to return \$567 million in frozen assets to Iran will help lead to the eventual release of hostages in Lebanon. "I carry the fate of the hostages with me every single day," Bush told a news conference at the White House. He said he knew of no reason to be discouraged at this time, however. Bush convened reporters on the day before the anniversary of his election victory and he used an introductory statement to sum up with satisfaction his first 10 months in office. "I enjoy it. I like the challenge," he said. One of the first questions was based on statements by former President Jimmy Carter, who said Bush had reacted too cautiously to changes in the Communist world. His questioner noted Bush had said he would go to next month's meeting with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev with no initiatives to offer. "I'd like to hear some specific suggestions," Bush said. "Besides triple the spending." He said he has no indication European allies are unhappy with the pace of his U.S.-Soviet policies.

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Jordanians go to the polls today

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times staff writer

AMMAN — Jordan turns a new leaf in its history today with the first comprehensive general elections to choose a new legislative assembly, heralding what is widely expected to be a turning point in the political, economic and social life of the Kingdom with grass-roots participation in its decision-making.

As campaigning came to a close Tuesday midnight, the total number of candidates vying for the 80 seats in the Lower House of the bicameral parliament was set at 635, with about 30 candidates withdrawing their nomination, filed Oct. 14 to 16.

About 1,100 polling centres open their doors at the crack of dawn, at 7 p.m., and will remain open for the next 12 hours with the exception of cases where the district governors decide to extend the voting hours for another two hours, as stipulated by law.

Although about 570,000 voters from a total of 1.62 million registered voters from an eligible electorate of 1.6 million have collected their necessary voting cards, conservative observers estimate the actual number of voters to be not more than 650,000.

Ranging from traditional conservatives to ultra-leftists and communists, the candidates seeking a seat in the 80-member parliament were supposed to call off their electioneering by midnight Tuesday, and many had arranged last-minute debates and gatherings to boost their chances with final shots at rivals. Hundreds of debates and rallies were held throughout the Kingdom in the last three weeks, with each candidate trying to outwit his rival with slogans and pledges of nationalism, overnight solutions to the country's economic and unemployment problems and commitment to the central Arab cause — Palestinian rights.

Political affiliations, personal ties and tribal roots as well as religious sentiments were evoked by the candidates in their quest for power, but, as one observer, Abu Ahmad, from Jabal Nuzul said, "It is clear that a majority of the electorate is wide awake to the pressing economic issues rather than politics and this will reflect when the ballot boxes are opened Wednesday."

About 16,000 security personnel are expected to be on election duty all over the Kingdom to ensure smooth balloting at the various polling centres attended by representatives of candidates. "Temperatures are bound to flare and there is little anyone could do about it," commented a senior Public Security Department (PSD) official. "But, we do not expect any serious flare-ups since the message seems to be clear to everyone that the government has left it clear and open to the electorate to choose the representatives of their choice to parliament."

Possession of weapons, live or otherwise, on election day is punishable by law. The most important element in the elections, according to analysts, is the free run that the government granted to political activists. "I think this is the most important election that Jordan ever experienced," former minister Taher Al Masri was quoted as saying by the Associated Press. Masri resigned in September to prepare for his campaign to a Lower House seat representing the Third District of Amman, a constituency where most observers are at a loss to predict any plausible outcome, what with 55 candidates seeking 5 seats — one of the highest ratios in the overall race.

Unofficial results are expected to drift in late Wednesday and early Thursday, with Jordan Television announcing hourly situations. Final results are expected to be formally announced by the interior minister sometime Thursday noon. The entire country appeared to be heading for a festive spirit for most of the electorate, with the exception, of course, of the candidates who are estimated to have spent over JD 4 million in campaign posters, election cards and newspaper advertising in the last three weeks.

Candidates and supporters were seen busy midnight Tuesday taking off banners from the streets, with some of them waiting for the chance of mid-night before ordering their supporters up the polls to tear down some of the most thought-provoking, still snafuful, slogans that adorned the capital's streets since Oct. 14.

Over 200 foreign journalists have converged on Amman to cover the Kingdom's elections and the government information apparatuses were having a tough time Tuesday attending to requests for press badges and seats in special government-organized buses assigned on trips to various governorates.

"They seem to have done a good job," commented a Swedish journalist, relaxing with a drink at one of Amman's prestigious hotels. "It is indeed a feat considering that such an exercise is held for the first time in 22 years."

Al Hussein, King Fahd discuss Arab issues

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday exchanged views with King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia, on a number of pan-Arab political issues.

In a telephone call King Hussein made, he voiced his appreciation to the great role played by King Fahd and the tripartite Arab committee in finding a solution to the Lebanese problem. King Fahd wished King Hussein continued success in leading Jordan towards further progress and prosperity.

Israeli planes raid Hezbollah positions

NABATIYEH, Lebanon (Agencies) — Israeli helicopter gunships rocketed guerrilla bases of the pro-Iranian Hezbollah, or Party of God, in South Lebanon Tuesday, witnesses said.

Police confirmed the reports, but could not provide a casualty figure.

Reporters in this market town said at least two helicopters were involved in the attack. They fired seven rockets into the positions in the wooded hill of the nearby village of Mita.

Mita is 18 kilometres south east of the port city of Sidon. Its population of 1,000 people left during Israel's invasion in 1982. Shiite Muslim fighters of Hezbollah have been using Mita as a forward base for launching operations against Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in South Lebanon.

One reporter, speaking on condition of anonymity, said smoke billowed from the stricken targets as ground defenders opened up at the aircraft from twin-barrelled anti-aircraft guns. No hits were observed.

A police spokesman, who cannot be named in line with regulations, said Hezbollah fighters "barred police from entering their area. We don't have an immediate report on casualties. We'll only know if they evacuate any wounded to hospitals in Sidon."

In Israel, an army spokesman said Israeli warplanes attacked Hezbollah targets in Mazraat Ayn Busiwar, 22 kilometres north of the border, and returned safely to base.

An army spokesman, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said several targets were struck in the base which is just north of the 10-to-16 kilometres wide buffer zone in South Lebanon.

Israel established the zone after pulling the bulk of its troops out of Lebanon in 1985, following a three-year occupation of the South.

The air attack was the 14th by Israel into Lebanon this year. By police count, 17 people were killed and 103 wounded in the previous strikes, the last of which was on Sept. 20 against a Palestinian guerrilla base in Naameh, south of Beirut.

A Hezbollah spokesman said the helicopter launched two raids but missed their target. "The missiles hit three cars parked near the position setting them ablaze," he said.

Meanwhile security sources inside Israel's buffer zone in South Lebanon said three missiles exploded Tuesday but there was no immediate word on casualties.

They said two missiles exploded near the town of Marjayoun at midday while another hit an area near Kfar Kela, a village close to Israel's border town of Metulla, one hour later.

Security sources in northern Israel said Katyusha rocket was fired into the border strip, but no injuries were reported.

U.S. vetoes U.N. draft accusing Israel

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United States vetoed a Security Council Resolution Tuesday strongly deploring Israeli actions in the occupied territories and demanding the return of property confiscated from a village where Palestinians staged a tax strike.

The council's other 14 members all voted for the draft. It was the third time this year that the United States, which is deeply involved in Middle East peace efforts, had blocked a resolution condemning Israel's handling of the 23-month-long Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

At least 708 Palestinians have been killed in the uprising. The council met at the request of the Arab group of states after Israeli troops besieged the village of Beit Sahour, near Bethlehem, and confiscated goods worth about \$1.5 million in response to a tax strike in support of the uprising.

Meanwhile, the Israeli army said Tuesday it had arrested a group of Muslim fundamentalists from the occupied Gaza Strip in connection with the killing of one Israeli soldier and kidnapping of a second.

Those detained belonged to the outlawed Hamas fundamentalist movement, which backs the 23-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, it said.

Avi Sasportas disappeared in February while hitchhiking and his body was unearthed in southern Israel in May, the same month that Elan Saadon went missing. Saadon has not been found.

In the West Bank, border police shot dead a Palestinian in the town of Kalkiya and Palestinian activists in Nablus killed an Arab suspected of collaborating with Israel, military and Palestinian sources said.

The disappearance of the two soldiers ignited anti-Arab protests in Israel. Controls were tightened on Palestinians from the Gaza Strip entering Israel to work.

The army statement said Saadon, like Sasportas, had probably been killed and buried somewhere in Israeli territory. Sasportas was reported to have been tortured.

The army did not say how many fundamentalists had been arrested but said three Arabs linked to the cell had escaped from Israel.

In Kalkiya, border police shot dead a Palestinian who tried to attack them, military sources said. He was hit in the chest with a rubber-coated metal bullet.

Palestinians identified him as Najj Al Haj Hassan, 13, and said he bled to death while in the custody of the soldiers.

They also said border police arrested 10 masked Palestinian activists in Kalkiya and three students were shot and wounded in clashes.

In occupied Jerusalem, a court jailed the head of the Israeli Alternative Information Centre, Michael Warsbawsky, for 20 months for offering printing services to a hostile organisation.

Warsbawsky was charged with printing a booklet for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine advising Palestinians how to act under arrest and interrogation. The centre was fined 10,000 shekels (\$5,000).

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But Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, who have been waging an anti-Israeli revolt for the past 23 months, say only the PLO can empower them to talk to the Israelis.

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"I believe that there is the possibility of a framework now being established which could lead to dialogue," Waldegrave told reporters after meeting Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Bush's comments laid to rest speculation that he would refuse to receive Shamir at the White House when the Israeli leader pays a private visit to the United States next week. Shamir arrives in New York Monday and travels to Cincinnati and Los Angeles later in the week to address Jewish groups.

The Bush administration was said to be displeased over Israel's reluctance to accept a proposal by Baker for spurring Palestinian elections in the Israeli-occupied territories.

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Lebanese soldiers Monday try to prevent demonstrators from entering the Maronite patriarch's residence in Bikirki.

Muawad works on cabinet to include militia leaders

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's new President Rene Muawad, working to impose authority on his divided country, looked on Tuesday at a possible cabinet including feuding Christian and Muslim militia, parliamentary sources said.

As Muawad worked in a northern mountain village, fellow-Christians demonstrated in the streets of east Beirut against his election.

Army commander Michel Aoun warned deputies who took part in Muawad's election not to return to the enclave, shut down by a anti-Muawad strike for a second day as tyres blazed in the streets.

"They committed legal violations. I don't advise them to return," Aoun said, reiterating also his refusal to recognise the newly elected president.

Cut off from the presidential palace in the Christian suburb of Baabda, Muawad consulted deputies in Ehden in the Syrian-controlled north on plans for a cabinet, due to be announced this week.

Militia leaders he is considering as possible members are Samir Geagea, leader of the Falangist Lebanese Forces (LF), Druze Warlord Walid Junblatt and Shiite Amal militia chief Nabih Berri, according to the parliamentary sources.

The 15,000-strong LF, armed with tanks and artillery, is the country's largest Christian militia and fought with Aoun what he termed a "war of liberation" against Syria.

The sources said an LF official telephoned the Syrian-backed head of state in the past 48 hours but had no further details.

Aoun talked with Geagea Sunday while deputies were meeting in Syrian-held territory to elect Muawad and ratify an internationally-supported peace plan.

"We agreed on a plan for facing the situation," Aoun told a news conference Tuesday when asked about the meeting. Geagea has declined to comment on the talks and Aoun did not elaborate.

The general rejects the Arab peace plan which brought Muawad to power. Aoun had demanded the plan ensure a speedy pullout of Syria's 33,000 troops but no clear timetable was included.

Muawad is widely expected to name Salim Hoes his prime minister. Hoes, a Muslim, resigned Sunday as head of a Syrian-backed cabinet which has been vying

for power with another cabinet led by Aoun. Syrian Vice President Abdel-Halim Khaddam met Muawad in Lebanon Tuesday and later told reporters: "Syria will offer all help demanded by the government of national reconciliation to extend its authority to the entire Lebanese land."

Western and Arab states have welcomed the peace accord which aims to end Lebanon's 14-year of civil war.

In east Beirut outside the French embassy, some 1,500 young people protested at what they saw as betrayal by the country they regard as their strongest western ally.

A protest leader shouted through a megaphone: "You have known a great hero, General De Gaulle, and we have our great hero, General Aoun."

Paris, Washington and other major Arab and international governments have backed Muawad, a 52-year veteran of Lebanese politics.

An editor at Voice of Lebanon, the main radio station in the Falangist sector of Beirut, said some 100 young Aoun supporters tried to storm the station Monday night but were forced to disperse by militiamen guarding the building.

The editor, who did not wish to be named, said the radio lost 12 of its telephone lines after the attack. All complaints to the ministry of communications went unanswered he said. "I don't know whether this is intentional."

In Marjayoun, South Lebanon 6,000 students demonstrated Tuesday against the country's new president and in support of Aoun.

"We want only Michel Aoun. The Syrians should leave," the marchers chanted, waving pictures of General Aoun and Lebanese flags as church bells rang.

About 2,000 Christians and Muslims marched in Marjayoun, the main town in Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone," and about 4,000 in the nearby villages of Ain Bil, Rmeish and Qleiaa.

At the Maronite church in Qleiaa, Father Mansour Hukayem told a crowd of student marchers and their parents that every soldier in the area backed Aoun.

In the Christian town of Jezzine, outside the security zone but held by South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen, more

than 3,000 people demonstrated on the streets in support of Aoun. Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Butros Sfeir backed an Arab League-brokered peace plan which led to Muawad's election.

Pro-Aoun demonstrators ransacked the residence of Sfeir at Bikirki, north of Beirut, shouted insults at the patriarch and forced him to kneel on the floor and kiss a poster of Aoun.

Sfeir, 68, re-settled Monday at his summer residence in Diman in Syrian-occupied North Lebanon. Muawad and a series of Muslim and Christian politicians visited Diman and denounced the attack.

Geagea said the attack on the patriarch was "unacceptable." Geagea, who normally is a hardliner, said in a statement: "There should be a dialogue (among the Lebanese) and hopes for a better future" after the election.

Although, he has not openly supported Muawad, but his statement reflected disagreement with Aoun.

In Washington, President George Bush Tuesday angrily denounced followers of Aoun and said a partition of Lebanon would be totally unacceptable.

Bush, asked about prospects for the war-torn country as he completed a news conference, returned to the podium and took an impassioned jab at opponents of the Lebanese peace plan.

He said he was "deeply offended" by the incident Monday in which Aoun's supporters stormed the residence of the patriarch.

His voice rising, the American president added: "This idea of some discussion of a further grief on that marvellous country by partition is totally unacceptable to countries around the world."

Syria and Algeria have condemned Lebanese hardliners for violating the sanctity of the patriarch's residence.

Aoun's supporters behaved like Nazis when they set fire to rooms at Patriarch Sfeir's home, the official Syria Times said.

Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmad Ghazali told Algiers Radio Monday that President Chadli Benjedid had been shocked by the attacks.

"This behaviour is absolutely undignified and can only discredit its authors," Ghazali said.

"I can affirm that it is the work of a small minority which is very, very far from the general attitude of the Lebanese people."

Israeli planes raid Hezbollah positions

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U.S. to return \$567m in frozen assets to Iran

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States is returning \$567 million in frozen assets to Iran but says the action is unrelated to the eight Americans held hostage in Lebanon.

The money was being held in a fund to back up claims by American banks against Iran. Most of those claims were settled in the past few weeks.

As a result, U.S. officials said Monday night, the leftover assets will be returned to the Bank of Iran. Another \$243 million will be transferred to a special fund to back up other American claims, U.S. officials said Monday night.

The move followed talks in the Hague last week between American Secretary of State George Shultz and Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati. A special tribunal set up in the Dutch capital in 1981 has been considering conflicting claims.

U.S. officials said the decision to return the assets through the Bank of Iran was unrelated to those held in Lebanon by a pro-Iranian faction.

Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani offered help last

month in getting 18 Western hostages freed if the United States released billions of dollars in frozen assets or helped settle the cases of three Iranians captured by Falangist Lebanese militiamen in 1982.

Bush administration officials immediately responded they would not engage in negotiations over the hostages and called on humanitarian grounds for the release of all the hostages.

Sandra McCarthy, a State Department spokeswoman, said Secretary of State Shultz's talks with Iranian officials in the Hague last Thursday and Friday concerned only claims matters. "We are making no deals with anyone about the hostages," she said.

About \$800 million had been held in a special fund against claims of American banks. "Since most of the bank claims were settled over the last several

months, \$567 million could be returned to Iran and the remainder was transferred to a special security account to back up other claims," a U.S. official said.

That account is maintained at a minimum of \$500 million, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The U.S.-Iranian claims commission was set up in 1981 as part of the arrangement that led to the release of American hostages held for 444 days in Tehran after seizure of the U.S. embassy by militants.

There are several other claims issues outstanding, including Iran's demand for compensation for military equipment purchased before the 1979 Islamic Revolution but never delivered.

The United States transferred \$9.9 billion in frozen assets to the jurisdiction of the claims tribunal in 1981. Before the banks' settlement, some \$3.8 billion had been transferred to Iran.

The \$10 million involved in Monday's action had been reserved for U.S. bank claims against Iran.

Sudan creates paramilitary force

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's military government has announced the formation of a paramilitary force, shortly after it vowed to win back a border town which southern rebels captured last month.

The Sudan News Agency (SUNA) Monday carried a copy of the decree by Sudan's military ruler, Lt. Gen. Omar Hassan Ali Bashir, in which he said the new force would help the army ward off "crisis and catastrophes."

"The Popular Defence Forces will train civilians in civil and military defence and raise the

degree of security awareness among them so that they will be in position to help the army and other regular forces when need arises," the decree said.

The decree said the force will be comprised of Sudanese volunteers at least 16 years old. They may also be asked to take part in missions delegated by the armed forces.

It stipulated that the commander-in-chief of the army will appoint a commander for the force from among the officers of the Sudanese Armed Forces with a rank no lower than brigadier.

Aiding the commander will be a consultative council named the "Popular Defence Forces Council" which will be made up from the Sudanese army's chief-of-staff, the directors of the police, prisons and fire brigades forces as well as a representative of Sudan's security apparatus.

The decree did not specify whether the government would arm the force and did not specify where its troops would be assigned.

The government has been fighting southern rebels who took up arms in 1983

Algerians protest at visit by colonists

ALGERIERS (R) — A visit to Algeria by 300 former French colonists, known as Pieds Noirs (black feet), has caused a furore in the western city of Oran, local newspapers have reported.

The Arabic language daily Al Shaab said a delegation of former

guerrilla fighters and journalists protested against the arrival of the group, who played a friendly soccer match against an Algerian team Saturday.

The demonstrators carried a map of Algeria with black feet treading on its northern shores

and the slogan: "Rise up, oh martyrs, independence is in a danger."

They called for the immediate expulsion of the Pieds Noirs and the trial of Algerian officials responsible for the invitation, Al Shaab reported.

Lebanese first lady dreams of fighting drugs

EHDEN, Lebanon (AP) — While new President Rene Muawad struggles with war-torn Lebanon's bitter politics, his wife Naila Issa Khoury is focusing on another devastating problem — drug abuse in one of the world's foremost hashish exporting countries.

"One of our big, big problems is drugs and drug addicts," said Mrs. Muawad in a Monday interview with the Associated Press at the family's ancestral palace in this northern mountain resort.

"My dream is to create organized leisure activities for youngsters because I think the absence of such activities is one of the reasons behind this problem," she said.

There are no official estimates of the number of drug abusers in Lebanon, but knowledgeable medical sources place the number at about half a million in a nation of 4 million.

The hashish industry thrives in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley which stretches along Syria's border. The valley is largely under the control of the Syrian army.

Mrs. Muawad spoke a day after a chaotic parliamentary vote for president that elected her husband the ninth president of Lebanon since independence from France in 1943.

His election faces stiff opposition from military leader Gen. Michel Aoun in a shattered country where parliament has no power and the men who control the arms wield the most influence.

"I feel overwhelmed by the level of responsibility being a first lady gives me," said Mrs. Muawad, speaking as well-wishers flocked through the Manor house. "The country is destroyed and there are many social problems."

"There are so many things to do — from planting trees to teaching people not to throw garbage in the streets... to the very high values which formed our country, its civilisation and its democracy."

Every Lebanese citizen should pitch in, she said. "We should all help each

other because I believe every person is responsible for making his country better."

Lebanon's 14-year-old civil war has claimed more than 150,000 lives, displaced more than one million people and shattered a once-booming economy.

Mrs. Muawad is from the mountain town of Bishari, the hometown of Lebanon's famous poet-philosopher, Gibran Khalil Gibran.

She met her husband while she was working as a journalist at the French language newspaper L'Orient le Jour. They were married in 1965.

"I had to stop work two months after getting married because people started saying that everything I wrote was my husband's," she said.

The couple have two children, 22-year-old Rima who has a law degree from France and plans to continue her education there and 17-year-old Michel, also a student in France.

Mrs. Muawad has a degree in French literature from the St. Joseph University and spent a year in Cambridge, England, to learn English.

But the elegant, vivacious first lady refuses to give her age.

"You never ask a lady how old she is," she said. Her husband is 64.

Mrs. Muawad heads a charity foundation that offers scholarships to needy students and supervises a small factory that makes traditional loose Lebanese dresses, called "abayas," in Zghorta, her husband's hometown.

"I dream of setting up a public library in the area," said Mrs. Muawad. "You can't make a country without culture, without art and without development."

Like her husband, Mrs. Muawad is an art-lover. Dozens of paintings, most by Lebanese artists, adorn the walls of their palatial stone and brick, two-story residence.

"We try to encourage Lebanese paintings by always trying to buy them," she said.

GCC ministers prepare for summit

NICOSIA (R) — Foreign ministers of the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) met in Muscat Monday to prepare for a meeting of their heads of state in Oman on Dec. 18 to consolidate inter-Gulf cooperation.

The ministers will sum up the findings of various GCC committees before drafting an agenda for the summit covering political, economic and security issues, the Omani News Agency said.

The agency, monitored in Cyprus, said Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Youssef bin Alawi told the opening session that the ministers would consider important political and economic issues.

"We have to touch on the progress of Iraqi-Iranian (peace) negotiations, the Palestine problem and developments of Lebanese national reconciliation," he said.

Defence and interior ministers of the GCC, which links Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, met separately last week and called for joint action to ensure Gulf security.

The Omani agency quoted Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal as saying on arrival that the GCC summit "will be effective in consolidating cooperation among member states."

Bahrain's foreign minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, said earlier that the ministers would discuss ways to implement terms of a GCC mid-fiscal economic accord.

He said the GCC attached importance to unifying customs tariffs to "back its stand in future negotiations on a commercial agreement with the European Community (EC)."

Bahrain's Development and Industry Minister Youssef Shirazi said Monday failure by Gulf Arab states to adopt identical import duties could delay a free trade pact with the EC.

GCC members want the EC to lift stiff tariffs on their petrochemical, refined and aluminium products.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Man dies after fire in Egypt

CAIRO (R) — One man died and four others were injured when fire broke out on an Egyptian oil platform in the Gulf of Suez, a spokesman for the operator said Tuesday. The man who died jumped into the sea and drowned after a gas explosion during maintenance Sunday aboard the Morgan 1 Platform operated by the Gulf of Suez Oil Company (GUPCO). Four men were taken to Cairo for treatment to burns. Al Ahram newspaper said in its early editions 15 oil workers had been injured. A GUPCO spokesman said the fire did little damage as the platform had been shut down for maintenance. GUPCO is a joint venture between AMOCO Corp. and the state-owned Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC).

U.K. peer seeks swap of Soviet PoWs

ISLAMABAD (R) — A British peer began talks with Afghan guerrilla leaders in Peshawar Tuesday in a bid to win the release of Soviet prisoners in return for rebel fighters set free in Kabul. Diplomatic sources in Islamabad said Lord Bethell hoped Mujahideen leaders based in the Pakistan city of Peshawar would respond to the release of the three rebels. Bethell won their freedom in talks with Afghan President Najibullah last week and they have been handed over to the Red Cross in the Afghan capital. "I regard President Najibullah's gesture in pardoning these men as a step towards an end in this civil war," he was quoted as saying. Bethell, a member of the European Parliament once denounced by Moscow as a right-wing anti-Soviet activist, is acting in a private capacity. In 1984, he secured the release of two Soviet prisoners held by the Mujahideen.

Ethiopia drops premier from cabinet

ADDIS ABABA (R) — Prime Minister Fikre-Selassie Wogderess, a key supporter of Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam, was dropped from the cabinet Tuesday, state radio announced. Radio Ethiopia said Fikre-Selassie had been relieved of his duties because of illness, but gave no details. Fikre-Selassie, a former air force captain, was among a group of young military officers who overthrew Emperor Haile Selassie in 1974 and steered the North East African country on a radical Marxist path.

Egypt's population to reach 70m.

CAIRO (R) — Egypt's population reached 51.85 million people by midday Monday and would rise to 70 million by the year 2000, the ruling party's population council estimated. The national Middle East News Agency (MENA) quoted council head Maher Mahran as saying there will be 100 million Egyptians by the year 2025. Egypt, the most populous Arab state where officials say a baby is born every 27 seconds, imports more than half its food. President Hosni Mubarak has repeatedly asked Egyptians to restrict the size of their families.

Arens arrives in Tokyo

TOKYO (AP) — Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens arrived in Tokyo Tuesday for talks with Japanese political and business leaders, officials said. During his five-day stay in Japan, Arens will meet with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama Thursday to discuss Japan-Israel relations, as well as Japanese policy on the Middle East, the Foreign Ministry said. Arens is also scheduled to meet with other parliamentary and political party leaders, as well as Eisairo Saito, chairman of the Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren). Arens' last visit to Tokyo was September 1985, when he was the second Israeli foreign minister ever to visit Japan, after Yitzhak Shamir, now prime minister. Arens was originally to arrive Monday, but he delayed the trip for one day, a ministry official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. He did not elaborate.

2 Israelis killed in U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — An artillery gun exploded at a U.S. army testing ground, killing two Israelis and injuring two others, a Defence Department official said Tuesday. The Israelis were part of a team testing an M109 Howitzer at the Yuma Proving Grounds in Arizona Monday when it blew up. The names of the victims and other details of the accident were not immediately available, the official said.

3 Swiss suspected of cheating Iran

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP) — The prosecutor has called for jail sentences of up to 6 years for three Swiss businessmen who allegedly cheated Iran out of 90 million Swiss francs (\$56 million) in the sale of 50 American-built tanks that were never delivered. On the opening day of the trial, Zurich state prosecutor Armin Felber, called for their conviction on charges of fraud and document forgery. Defence lawyers urged the acquittal of the trio, whose names were not released. The prosecution charges that the three men in 1981 signed a deal for the tanks worth 130 million francs (\$81 million) with Sadegh Tabataba'i, a special envoy of Iran's late spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. After being shown forged shipping papers, Tabataba'i paid 90 million francs into a Swiss bank account, according to evidence presented at the trial. The Swiss inquiry was touched off when the bank alerted police after one of the defendants withdrew 30 million francs (\$19 million) from the account in October 1981.

Israel gives guarantee for ship's release

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt has received the bond it requested as a condition for releasing an Israeli-owned tanker detained last month on a charge of polluting territorial waters in the Gulf of Suez, a representative of the ship owners said Tuesday. Yehoshua Goldstein, director of Tanker Services Ltd., which is partly owned by the Israeli government, also said that Joseph Zvi, skipper of the 103,322-ton Nyruta, appeared in a court in Sinai Tuesday morning. Goldstein, who arrived in Cairo last week, told the AP that his firm had obtained for Egypt a letter of guarantee for \$1.5 million from the ship's London insurers.

Taste of winter comes to Afghanistan

By John Poulret
The Associated Press

KABUL — There are still some balmy days left this season in Afghanistan, but already people are worrying about winter.

In a foreshadowing of what is expected to be a major winter campaign, U.S.-backed Afghan guerrillas closed the main road to the Soviet Union for 10 days last month, sending food and fuel prices up almost 50 per cent in the capital. Sugar and cooking oil disappeared from the markets. Cars vanished from the streets.

The Soviet-supported government fought fiercely to open the road, firing at least four huge Scud missiles, each about 11 metres long, and hundreds of other rockets at rebel positions on the highway. Rebels said government planes carpet-bombed villages friendly to the opposition.

By Tuesday, the Salang Highway had opened and trucks carrying flour and gasoline began to roll into the capital.

But the lesson was not lost. The 10 days were a dress rehearsal for winter.

"It's going to be a tough

time, worse than last year," said Mohammad Khakim, president of the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce.

Ross Mountain, head of the United Nations Development Programme in Kabul, says if the war goes on, the poor could starve. Diplomats say the weak economy and the civil war are turning Afghanistan into "another Lebanon."

Last winter, a bustling black market blossomed around Soviet troops, who sold fuel for Kabul's electricity and flour for its bakeries. Some Afghans made small fortunes, trafficking in Soviet arms, bought from troops eager for foreign currency.

Still, malnutrition was rife, and people often went cold and hungry in their city blanketed in snow.

In February, Moscow ended its 10-year intervention. With its soldiers went an important source of goods and cash. Now, despite a massive Soviet aid programme that in six months has sent 266,543 metric tonnes of goods overland and thousands more by air, the economy is getting worse.

In 1987, the country's combined exports and imports barely hit \$1 billion. This year, Afghanistan will be lucky if it

achieves half that, according to chamber of commerce figures. Gross national product has risen little above the 1983 per capita figure of \$157.

But now, prices are already higher than last February, a bad sign since food costs in Afghanistan are traditionally lower in autumn when it is harvested. A seven-kilogramme sack of flour has almost doubled in cost to 1,600 afghani (\$4) and by the end of winter merchants estimate it could hit \$10.

Sugar has skyrocketed to more than \$2 a kilogramme. Tea, the third most important item, has tripled in price.

Women have begun defying the 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. curfew and are spending nights outside bakeries to ensure a loaf or two in the morning.

"I am poor," said one elderly woman as she fixed her straw mattress outside one store as the curfew approached. "My husband and I need to eat and there is no other way to get bread."

Despite inflation, salaries haven't gone up.

The average monthly wage hovers between 2,000 afghani (\$4) and 5,000 afghani (\$12.5). Government food coupons are issued to the mili-

tary, the numerous militias and government employees, but no one else.

For many in Kabul, desperation has become a way of life. Omar Mir Ahmad runs a photo shop in a small house with mud walls in the old city. His whole family works in the store and they make about 18,000 afghani a month.

Since they run a private business, the family receives no government assistance.

"I've got seven mouths to feed," Ahmad says, pointing around his room, suddenly darkened by one of Kabul's frequent blackouts. "How will I get by?"

At Kabul University, a student wearing fluorescent pink lipstick and bright white shoes recounts that her two brothers were killed by a rocket as they flew their kites.

"Tell the United States and Russia to send two big bombs to blow us up all at once," she says. "We are sick of dying in bits and pieces. Let us die together."

Since rocket attacks were stepped up in June, Zahir Tamin has barely allowed his children out of the house. So far about 400 people have been killed.

"When I look into their

eyes, it is difficult for me to bear it," says the prominent editor. "We are losing a generation. This is the sorrow of Afghanistan."

If there is hope here, perhaps it resides in the traditional centre of life here — the bazaar.

The city's central food market is a short walk from Ahmad's photo shop through the serpentine alleys of old Kabul. There men in turbans with brown weathered faces, grey beards and green eyes hawk dried yogurt, grapes and succulent melons.

Behind a row of buildings lies the grain market. In one corner sits Mohammad Nair, a grizzled merchant.

"The government is coming to us on its knees," says the private trader. "They say they need our help. Only the bazaar will feed the people. Communism has failed."

In the past few months, the government has returned an unprecedented amount of economic power to the market in an effort to bring food to Afghanistan. It ended a monopoly on the transportation of fuel and sugar. It relaxed already feeble currency trading regulations and drop-

ped import restrictions and tariffs.

"The market here would make a free-trader from America proud," says Hakim, of the chamber of commerce.

Anything can be bought in Kabul: Portable tape recorders from Japan, Italian leather goods, Russian and Iranian caviar, high-class French perfume and tea from China. Many goods are re-exported through the black market to Pakistan, India and Iran, which have tighter import controls.

In addition, the government has gone so far as to assure traffickers in stolen goods who bring the stuff to market that they should not fear prosecution.

"Since all this is aimed at peaceful activity, then we support it," says Kabul's Mayor Abdul Hakim Misq. "It is better than rockets."

Still, with a bloody civil war raging and with roads open only intermittently, life will remain difficult.

A reminder of that came Thursday, just as winter's dress rehearsal drew to a close. The first heavy snows had come to the mountains ringing Kabul.

JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME ONE
18:00 Children's programme
18:45 Reports on elections
19:00 Live transmission — basketball match (Jordan-Kuwait)
20:00 Reports on Elections
20:30 Arabic series (two episodes)
21:00 News in Arabic
21:30 News in Arabic
22:00 Play "Petra"

PROGRAMME TWO
17:45 Le Monde Musique de Chantal Goya
18:00 Documentary: France
18:30 L'Appart
19:00 News in French
19:45 Douce France
20:30 News in Arabic
21:00 Different World
21:30 Supernews "All in the Mind"
22:00 News in English
22:30 Hunter

PRAYER TIMES

04:34 Fajr
05:33 Sunrise
11:19 Dhuhr
14:19 Asr
16:45 Maghrib
18:04 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrestrial Church Tel. 622666
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Armenian Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 713331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 713261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 685336
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811285
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654952

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
A rise in temperature is expected. Winds will be southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate, and seas calm.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630341
Hotel Complaints 605802
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Armenian Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 62101
Abdullah Telephone Repairs 61101
Jordan Television 771111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 880100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power 815615
Complaints 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81281332
Khaldun Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Jabal Amman Maternity 642816
Malheur, J. Amn. 656140
Palestine, Shmami 6647134
St. Joseph Hospital 661231
University Hospital 843843
Al-Munster Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Islamic, Al-Muhajreen 7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 7751156
Army, Marjeh 89761115
Queen Alia Hospital 60224050
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital 03983323
Zarqa National Hospital 03951071
Ibn Sina Hospital 03986732
RIBDA:
Princess Banna Hospital 02327555
Greek Catholic Hospital 02722725
Ibn Al-Nafies Hospital 02347100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital 03514111
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (03)33200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
09:10 Jeddah (RJ)
09:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
10:15 Damascus (RJ)
10:30 Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)
10:45 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:00 New Delhi (RJ)
11:15 Beirut (RJ)
11:30 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
11:45 London, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:00 Madrid, Rome (RJ)
12:15 Chicago, New York, Vienna (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:35 Dubai (AZ)
06:50 Baghdad (IA)
07:05 Cairo (MS)
07:15 Jeddah (SV)
07:30 Bangkok (LH)
07:45 Kuwait (KU)
08:00 Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
08:15 London (BA)
08:30 Beirut (ME)
08:45 Zurich (SR)
09:00 Cairo (MS)
09:15 Baghdad (IA)
09:30 Jeddah (SV)
09:45 Jeddah, Sana'a (YV)
10:00 Bangkok (LH)
10:15 Kuwait (KU)
10:30 Ankara, Istanbul (TK)
10:45 Sana'a (YV)
11:00 Karachi (PK)

MARKET PRICES

Uppeflower price in fils per kg.
Apple 420 / 380
Banana 450 / 400
Banana (Mukammal) 400 / 350
Beet 500 / 400
Cabbage 250 / 200
Carrot 200 / 150
Cauliflower 200 / 150
Corn 250 / 200
Cucumbers (large) 90 / 60
Cucumbers (small) 240 / 180
Eggplant 850 / 150
Garlic 650 / 750
Grapefruit 220 / 180
Grapes 450 / 400



Campaign banners in an Amman street.

Candidates scramble on last day of campaigning

AMMAN (AP) — Some 635 parliamentary candidates held rallies, passed out fliers and pounded the pavement Tuesday on the last day of campaigning for Jordan's first general election in 22 years.

Candidates seeking a last chance to reach the 877,000 voters placed 222 advertisements in one 30-page daily newspaper, Al-Dustour, alone.

By law, all of the hundreds of banners draped over streets and the thousands of posters plastered to walls and windows were supposed to come down by midnight Tuesday — a seemingly impossible task.

The election for 80 deputies is the first nationwide vote since 1967, when Israel occupied the West Bank making elections impossible in that territory, which held half the seats in the old Parliament.

His Majesty King Hussein last year severed relations with the West Bank in favour of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, and this election helps seal that division. It is the first general election since 1950 to omit the West Bank.

Wednesday's vote is "an extremely important election, maybe the most important" in Jordan's 68-year history, said Kamel Abu Jaber, a political scientist who heads Amman's elite World Affairs Council.

He said it comes as Jordan confronts three crucial changes: A slumping economy, political adjustment to the severance of links with the West Bank and the emergence of a true national identity.

Women gained the vote in 1974 and Wednesday will be the first time they can run and vote nationally. Twelve women are

seeking seats. With little recent electoral history and no formal opinion polls, optimism ran rampant among candidates. Fewer than 20 of the 652 who registered three weeks ago had dropped out of the race by Tuesday.

The campaign so far has also been the freest here since 1956, and one of the freest ever held in the Arab World.

No candidates were blocked for purely political reasons and the government declined to enforce a law against campaigns by party members.

Several banned organisations are campaigning with relative openness.

The best organised "movement" has been the Muslim Brotherhood, which drew more than 6,000 people to a mass rally in Amman Friday attended by six of its 26 announced candidates.

Common identity, challenges preoccupy the electorate

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — "Ladies and gentlemen, please observe a minute of silence so that we may honour the victims of the intifada and the victims of the revolt," says a candidate running in the Balqa District before presenting his election platform.

In Balqa, and all over Jordan, everyone is speaking of Palestine, the intifada and Palestinian people's dedication to liberation in an apparent attempt to win the "Palestinian vote" in today's elections.

Alongside the calls to eliminate corruption, put an end to martial law, and allow for the formation of political parties, almost all candidates, or at least 90 per cent of them, are talking about the issue of Palestine. In a country where Jordanians of Palestinian origin number anywhere from 30 to 65 per cent of the total population, the question of Palestine is considered a top priority issue. At least the candidates seem to think so.

Although political ties between the Kingdom and the occupied territories were officially severed last summer in a political decision that popularly became known as "the disengagement," many Jordanians, of both East and West Bank origin, have indicated that in spirit at least the people are one.

Some candidates have performed "an overkill" as one voter put it, when visiting local clubs, which have grouped Palestinians according to their towns and villages of origin, by basing three-quarters of their election speech on ways to support the intifada and voicing support for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) or not voicing support for the PLO.

The camps

While one would expect that in the refugee camps scattered mostly across northern and central Jordan, Palestinian refugees would hammer away at that Palestine question, some observers may be surprised to hear that while putting support of the intifada at the top of their list, camp residents are very concerned about local issues that affect their daily lives.

In the Wadhat camp, a female relative of a candidate explained to other women that they "must vote because there is no Jordanian-Palestinian identity problem, it is a question of having our say in our day lives."

Meanwhile her candidate relative told the men in the next room how he would solve the camps' sewage and water problems if he got to Parliament.

In Al-Balqa and the camps in northern Jordan, camp residents are questioning candidates sharply on what social and municipal services he will lobby for if elected to Parliament. "We have open sewers and no running water. Proper public transportation is not available for people in our camp who work in Amman and we have a hundred other problems that need care from government agencies," said one voter from Balqa's camp.

"We need an effective representative in Parliament not just a poet."

Another clarified one of several positions taken by Palestinians in Jordan. "I approve of the disengagement because it strengthens the PLO position and is the first step to statehood."

Fundamentalist and "Islamist" candidates on the whole, have rejected the disengagement and attacked the PLO leadership for "selling out."

Muslim Brotherhood supporters, young and old, have responded by chanting in agreement, "Jihad is our way to Palestine."

Candidates with leftist and Arab-nationalist leanings on the other hand have stated that they tacitly support the political disengagement although they believe economic cooperation should not have been curbed. "On the political level a disengagement is possible for now, although I hope a union in form of a confederation will eventually result after the state of Palestine is established, but I believe an economic disengagement will not serve either sides interests in the long run," said an Arab nationalist candidate in Karak. "A cultural disengagement cannot occur, all Jordanians through blood, marriage or feeling are somehow Palestinian as well."

Some camp residents pointed out that the attention being given to the Palestine issue in campaign debates in the "bourgeois areas" is understandable because as one camp candidate put it "economically they worry about the value of the dollar and how many trips they can afford to take this year. Politically they want to represent them in Parliament and the verbal support of the intifada is like a vote for their conscious. We in the camps will return to Palestine when we can, unlike the rich Palestinians, but in the meantime we have to live as well."

Although almost all candidates of all political persuasions have at least mentioned support of the intifada in their campaign platform, one candidate in the Third District is proudly pointing out to voters that he has not because "support of the intifada is so much understood that it doesn't have to be mentioned."



All election posters and banners were expected to be torn down midnight Tuesday/Wednesday (Photo by Youssef Al-Ajlani)

Economy to democracy and politics — voters' priorities

By Sana Attiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Having organised nine public debates grouping 54 candidates and a large number of "conscious voters" in the capital region, the cultural committee of the Jordan Bar Association has come out with the finding that while the Jordanian people want democracy their priorities vary from economic issues to politics.

The committee has concluded that democracy is essential because "it is a system that serves the people, which in turn creates a better life." A statement issued by the panel said the parliamentary system "gives people a chance to tell the truth."

"We believe that more democracy would overcome the negative aspects of democracy," the statement concludes.

The statement stipulates that the creation of constitutional institutions is the path to achieve the principles of the constitution and legislation. It said the constitution gave the right to each branch of government its responsibilities and functions.

"The Lower House of Parliament supervises the actions of the executive branch," said the statement. "The Constitution says that serious decisions that involve the nation and its people cannot be passed until the Parliament discusses the issue and approves it."

The committee also concluded that Islam is important for the progress of Arabs and Arab unity. Islam is a civilised religion that allowed Arabs play an important role in history," the statement noted.

"Islam represents justice and freedom, and that the Islamic sharia is fair in solving people's problems, and it respects other religions, beliefs and high human morals," according to the statement.

"We want freedom of press, so the rivers of the press will flow the truth between the hands of the people," the statement said. "Freedom of press is a popular demand because it should play its role in progress and development in the country."

Women's rights

Women's rights is not a women's issue, but an issue that affects the whole society. "Women have rights, duties and responsibilities. What women suffer in this society, so do men. Anyone who says that women are not half the society are blind," the statement said.

It added that during these debates, there was no doubt that the unity of the two banks of the Jordan River is an historic example of the Arab unity. "This hall (where the meetings were held at the Profes-

sional Associations Complex) observed during the past two weeks a popular survey that showed that the slogan, 'Jordan for Palestine' and 'Palestine for Jordan,' is a continuous unity with no disengagement whatever the circumstances."

A member of this committee told the Jordan Times that they support any decisions that support the Palestinian cause, but stand firmly against any discriminatory actions between Palestinian and Jordanians.

On the intifada, which has entered its 24th month, the statement pointed out that financial support for the uprising is a subject that should not even be discussed "because it is every Arab person's duty to provide financially for those who are fighting the Zionists with their stones."

The same committee member elaborated that Arabs must provide active support to the intifada, which includes boycotting all those countries who support Israel.

"We should depend on our own resources and production rather than import from the United States and countries that support Israel. By buying from these countries we are indirectly affecting the Palestinian struggle in a very negative way, and in a way supporting Israel," he said.

The statement noted that the intifada was a "strong message" to the world that the Palestinian will for struggle will never disintegrate, and that the intifada is a living proof that the "Arab-Zionist struggle is unlimited."

It added: "The intifada taught us that the proper kind of peace is the peace of strong, the peace for those who will not make sacrificial concessions on their rights no matter how much they suffer from the oppression of the enemy."

The committee member explained that in order to achieve just and fair peace, the Arabs must be strengthened in every way. "If we are strong, we can have just peace, if not, there will be the kind of peace that Israel wants, which means giving up our basic rights for their security and disregarding our own humanity," he said.

The committee statement added that the people have the right to dream and to adopt the "great slogans," but "we must not live in dreams; we must work towards realising our dreams through proper action and strong will."

The committee stated that the elections battle painted a very positive picture of democratic sportsmanship between the candidates and voters alike. "We hope that this atmosphere will continue, because democracy means for us to hear and respect different opinions," the statement concluded.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEFS

BAHRAIN EMIR CONDOLES KING: His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received a cable of condolences from the Emir of Bahrain, Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, expressing sympathy over the death of eight army officers in a helicopter crash south of the Dead Sea last week. The King also received a similar cable from Prime Minister of Bahrain Sheikh Khalifa Ben Salman Al Khalifa (Petra).

COMPETITION FOR STAMPS: The post office and Postal Savings Fund Corporation Tuesday issued a statement inviting Arab and Jordanian artists to take part in a competition to design new issues of Jordanian postage stamps for the coming year. The winners, in the competition will receive a monetary prize. The deadline for entry is Dec. 15. (Petra).

TRAINING COURSE: The Institute of Public Administration (IPA) announced Tuesday that it would begin on a nine-day training programme Saturday for employees at the Ministry of Supply. The course will orient the participants on ways of controlling and monitoring prices of different products on the local markets. A total of 15 employees will take part in the course, which was prepared in conjunction with the Ministry of Supply.

CIVIL DEFENCE: Civil defence services are not observing a holiday Wednesday, which is a public holiday for the elections, and all civil defence officers have been placed on alert to deal with any emergency, according to Civil Defence Department (CDD) Director Khaled Tarawneh. He said in a statement to Al-Dustour that teams of officers from the CDD were joining others from the Armed Forces and the Public Security Department in dealing with any eventuality.

JVA BUDGET: The 1990 budget for the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) was ratified at a meeting held Tuesday under the chairmanship of Minister of Water and Irrigation Mohammad Saleh Al Kilani. A statement said that the meeting also approved of measures to assign agricultural land and land for housing projects and areas for irrigation in the northern and southern Jordan Valley region.

EXPORTS: Jordan's exports of fresh fruit and vegetables amounted to 47,300 tonnes with a total value of JD 10.5 million, compared with 18,400 tonnes during October last year, thus achieving an increase of 64 per cent over last year's figures. Most of the exports were sent to the Arab Gulf countries. However, the exports to Saudi Arabia accounted to 22,400 tonnes of the total exports, followed by Kuwait which imported 12,400 tonnes, and the United Arab Emirates with 7,280 tonnes. Exports to Bahrain accounted for 5.2 per cent of the total exports and Qatar 2.1 per cent. Exports to Lebanon amounted to 370 tonnes and exports to Europe amounted to 150 tonnes. Last month's exports were 5.8 per cent higher than those of September. (Petra)

TAHA HUSSEIN CONFERENCE: Yarmouk University will take part in a conference held on the occasion of the centennial birthday anniversary of Taha Hussein, the renowned Arabic writer. Representing the university in the four-day conference, which will be held in Cairo Nov. 11, are Dr. Husni Mahmoud and Dr. Youssef Abu Al 'Odous from the department of Arabic Literature at the university (Petra).

BIOLOGY CONFERENCE: Jordan is taking part in the fifth Arab scientific conference for biology. The four-day conference, organised by the Arab Biologists League, will discuss animal and vegetable physiology, fish wealth in the Arab World and other major issues. Taking part in the conference are Iraq, Tunis, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and the Arab Maghreb Union states besides Arab and foreign specialists.

OCTOBER REVOLUTION RECEPTION: On the occasion of the 72nd anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution, the Ambassador of the USSR and Mrs. Zinchuk are holding a reception Tuesday, 7 at the Regency Hotel.

HEALTH CENTRES OPEN NOV. 8: All health centres in Jordan will be open Wednesday, which is an election day holiday, according to a circular by Health Minister Zuhair Mahasheh. He minister said health officials can take time out to vote but would also be required to carry out their duties. (Petra)

YARMOUK TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETING: Yarmouk University announced Saturday that it will take part in a meeting by the Association of Arab Universities which will be held in Benghazi, Libya Feb. 17, 1990. University education, publication of textbooks and the establishment of a special documentation centre to provide science material to various Arab universities will be discussed at the meeting.

ACC urged to help reconstruct Aqsa wall

CAIRO (Agencies) — Housing cooperatives in the four member states of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) have been urged to contribute to reconstructing the walls of Al Aqsa Mosque in occupied Jerusalem, the third most holy shrine for Muslims around the world.

The walls are said to have been severely damaged, and the under-structure of the holy shrine affected to a large degree as a result of continuing excavation work conducted by the Israeli authorities. Jordan's delegate told a meeting here attended by heads of housing cooperatives in the ACC countries.

Mousa Arafah, who is also deputy director of the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO), said that the heads of the cooperatives urged their countries to set up a cooperative centre for the ACC in the city of Fao by providing engineering designs and necessary funds.

The meeting discussed issues related to housing and the role of cooperatives in promoting this role in order to contribute to the development process in urban and rural areas.

He said the delegates recommended "that proper studies be conducted for the establishment of joint companies that could organise the process of housing in cooperation with the cooperatives and the private sectors in the four countries." — Egypt, Iraq, North Yemen and Jordan.

This company, he said, could be supported by a special bank that could provide the necessary fund for housing schemes.

The meeting recommended that housing cooperatives encourage vertical housing expansion in the urban regions and horizontal expansion in semi-arid regions. It also recommended a thorough study on the means of stemming the on-going process of migration from rural to urban regions in these states. Arafah said.

He said the heads of cooperatives were unanimous in their call for training cooperative members at a specialised centre in Cairo, and also urged all cooperative officials to coordinate their countries' positions at the regional and international level.

Arafah said that the meeting decided to set up a headquarters for the housing cooperatives in the Egyptian capital to follow-up the implementation of resolutions and recommendations and also to coordinate efforts by cooperative organisations within the ACC states. This would pave the way for the establishment of a centre in charge of organising and planning the work of cooperatives.

'Education for All' meeting open Nov. 13

AMMAN (J.T.) — A three-day meeting opens here Nov. 13 on "Education for All" under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and sponsored by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank.

The conference will discuss a draft charter on "Education for All" and a framework for action pertaining to a global effort to resolve problems facing basic educational needs. One of 10 regional consultations around the world, the Amman meeting's findings and recommendations will be an important input towards the World Conference on

Education for All (WCEFA) to be held in Thailand next March.

The regional consultations and the WCEFA stem from the urgent need to meet the challenge of basic education denied to millions of human beings around the world, including industrialised and developed countries. Today, 100 million primary school-age children are not in school, and one in five adults around the world is illiterate. A real crisis in the field of education, and the acquiring of knowledge and necessary skills, is facing both children and adults and as such, depriving them of the opportunities to progress and improve living standards. The fault does not usually lie with the educational

sector alone but with an aggregate of other factors such as adequate qualified manpower and management, finance and planning.

Experience clearly indicates that the success of socio-economic cultural and environmental development plans and policies around the world is determined by whether a country's population possesses the appropriate basic knowledge, skills and attitudes needed for success.

A growing conviction has been building up worldwide that while the problem threatens the well-being of humanity, much can be done to address and rectify it.

Discovery sheds light on prehistory of man

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Tell Abu Al Khazaz is a new discovery in Jordan that sheds light on the prehistory of man. Situated in the Jordan Valley, this discovery was somewhat of an "accident" for Peter Fisher, director of Swedish excavators on the site from the Gothenburg University in Sweden. "I was walking along the Jordan Valley area when I came across this isolated yet majestically impressive rock," he recalls spotting the ancient city.

Fisher said the area was actually found in 1976 but was immediately dismissed until his hunch prompted excavations.

The excavations began in early October, in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities and four other Swedes — Tony Bergstrand, Joergen Ernstsen, Lotta Holm and Elias Markou.

Tell Abu Al Khazaz, which is situated one kilometre east of the village of Yabis, overlooks the merging of Wadi Yabis with the east side of the Jordan Valley. About 200 metres west of the Tell a small hill is found. This is the Tell Al Meyberah. Fisher said. Around the hill, an ancient town wall could be seen. "We decided to open a trench about 40 kilometres west of the summit to place a date on the wall," he said.

According to Fisher, the first

test trench uncovered three city walls below one another. The first and smallest wall was found to date back to the Iron Age (700-600 B.C.), while the second, which was bigger in size, some 150 metres high, is seen as related to the late Bronze Age (1300-1200 B.C.). The third wall could not yet be dated because the excavation have not reached the foundation trench. But according to Fisher's calculated guess, the third wall could be dated within the early Bronze Age period (2500 B.C.).

Fisher said that the area was labelled as one in which many fine and high quality pottery was found. He added that different sorts of safety pins, known as fibula, from the Bronze Age and Iron Age were also found.

What the Swedish group calls area two came about from digging a second test trench about 20 metres west from the first one. It revealed areas of a much older occupation. "There were many finds from all the Bronze Age periods," Fisher said. The oldest finds belonging to a stratum from the early Bronze Age (3000 B.C.).

According to Fisher, large and broken clay vessels were found covered by a thick layer of clay and ash in the stratum. Again, high quality pottery was found, described by the archaeologists as "chocolate on white" because "the pottery pieces are white with chocolate brown decorating them."

Fisher explained.

Fisher and his colleagues also found a well preserved, pieced bowl with a figure of a bird printed on it. This was described as rare by Fisher, for "there have hardly been any figured decorated pots yet discovered in Jordan." To top all the finds, fence beads and remains of already burned thick clay ovens were also discovered.

Fisher described a large building within this area. "It was perhaps a temple from the late Bronze Age." The building, which has an area of five by five metres, did not own any dividing walls. Instead it was replaced by stones to support the roof which had a lot of its debris on the floor. "Its appearance is similar to that after an earthquake," Fisher said.

The building was filled by kilns and grinding stones as well as potters of various shapes and sizes. Fisher added that there was also overturned pots "as though someone had left them in a hurry."

Fisher suggested that it was strange not to have found any skeletons or any metals. "We were only able to find tools used in everyday life," he said.

Fisher says that the Tell is identical with the Biblical Jabesh Gilead but "we have yet to complete our excavations to look for more evidence of human life." It would take another four seasons, if not more, he added.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arab press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Foad Mimi and Ammar Khammash at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation's Scientific and Cultural Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Mohammad Al Qaddumi displaying oil and watercolour paintings depicting nature in Jordan, at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ Islamic calligraphy exhibition at Jordan National Gallery.
- ★ A fine art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian Artists Jamal Ashour, Hazem Al Zuhri, Ghazi Dabbala and Mohammad Al Jalous at Petra Bank Art Gallery.
- ★ An Iraqi book exhibition at the Yarmouk University.

Jordan Times

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Soviet Jews shun 'promised land'

By Sergei Shargorodsky
The Associated Press

TEL AVIV — The "promised land" has failed to attract most of the new wave of Soviet Jewish immigrants, but officials have announced a \$3 billion resettlement programme in the hopes of reversing the trend.

Israeli officials hope to lure 100,000 Soviet immigrants over the next three years, a goal many feel is over-optimistic. This is because the new brand of Soviet emigrants, unlike the exodus of the 1970s, is more interested in lifestyle than ideology.

"(Israel's) message of 'Jews, come home' does not work," Inna Shapiro, who immigrated 14 years ago and recently revisited the Soviet Union, said on Israel's state television.

"Nobody asks if it feels good to be a Jew in Israel. They just want

a better life," she said.

Earlier Soviet immigrants mock the materialism of the what they call the "sausage emigrants" — those who seek quality goods, like good sausage, which are in short supply in Moscow.

Mikhail Chlenov, chairman of the newly opened Jewish cultural association in Moscow, agreed during a recent visit to Israel that today's emigrants are different.

"They are more assimilated. Their reasons are not specifically Jewish," he said. "Mostly, they are worried over the government's instability, the spread of anti-Semitism, economic crisis."

Perhaps the strongest deterrent to immigration is the experience of many of the 250,000 who settled in Israel since 1967.

Their tribulations in getting good jobs and houses, dealing with the nerve-wracking tensions of the Arab-Israeli conflict and

finding a place in the insular, native-born Sabra society has filtered back to the Soviet Union, influencing some potential immigrants to choose the United States instead of Israel.

"Israel's media and society gave the immigrants of the 1970s a hostile reception. Economic incentives granted to new immigrants, especially housing mortgages, have constantly changed for the worse," said Yitzhak Yuzepolsky, an electrical engineer who came here in 1974.

The emigration of the 1970s, he said, included outstanding scientists, engineers and artists who have since left Israel or went directly to the United States because "Israel could not create the minimal conditions necessary for their work."

In an effort to make the Jewish state more attractive, the cabinet

announced Oct. 30 a detailed programme to build 25,000 new housing units, start vocational training programmes, create new jobs, open new classrooms.

Amos Rubin, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's economic adviser, said Israel will try to raise \$1 billion in donations and loans abroad, mostly from Jews in the United States.

Barring an unexpected flood of emigrants, he said Israel would not seek new U.S. government aid, now \$3 billion annually. Israel would, however, ask for U.S. guarantees to underwrite a bond issue to raise \$400 million for private housing.

Where the immigrants will be settled is a major outstanding issue.

One controversial plan by Absorption Minister Yitzhak Peretz calls for channelling the

flow to rundown development towns in remote areas where factories are closing and unemployment is high.

Another proposal put forward by Yitzhak David, Shamir's adviser on Jewish affairs, recommends Soviet Jews be settled in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Liberal critics argue the plan would deter Soviet Jews who did not want to be thrust into the midst of the Palestinian revolt and complicate relations with Washington. The U.S. administration has announced it would reject any effort to help resettle immigrants in the occupied territories.

So far, the effort to attract Soviets has been a stinging failure. In January-October this year, 7,725 out of 51,080 Soviet Jewish emigrants came to Israel,

according to Uri Gordon, a senior official in the quasi-governmental Jewish agency.

He said 284,550 of the 2.5 million Soviet Jews have requested sponsors abroad so far this year. He predicts half will come to Israel.

America, where 162,000 Soviet Jews have settled in the past two decades, has become the main magnet for Soviet emigrants.

"Businessmen from the United States told me that Soviet Jews have created many jobs there. And in Israel, they only say that we take jobs from others," said Vladimir Lifschitz, who arrived two years ago.

Some Israeli officials see hope for an increase in immigration to Israel as a result of new U.S. immigration restrictions that have put a ceiling of 50,000 Soviet refugees next year.

Memorable times

TODAY is the day of reckoning for both candidates and voters after each side has exhausted itself getting acquainted with the other. Now is the time to collect and deliver and it is surely a very exciting time for the entire country.

To begin with, it was the candidates who incurred the biggest "expense" to get their messages across to the voters, although on occasions their messages were garbled here or there. Likewise, the voters spent much time and patience getting familiar at close range with the political platforms of the various contenders. That would explain why practically all the electioneering sessions between candidates and voters were packed to the seams. On many of these occasions, the voters were very argumentative. They pressed those who sought their votes about specifics and assurances that the flowery promises that they have heard will be delivered. As a matter of fact, during all such meetings and encounters, both voters and candidates sought to make one another accountable for their mutual promises. Of course and until the elections are over and the votes are counted, the country cannot be sure of the credibility of such mutual promises.

In another vein, some observers close to the political pulse of the electorate have made projections on the composition of the next elected Lower House of the Parliament. Others maintain that there will be many surprises after the ballots are counted and predict that most seats are still up for grabs. More relevant than either forecast is the level of turnout by voters who will cast their votes today. There has been fear that many potential voters may have got disillusioned by the proliferation of flamboyant promises and campaign pledges and may end up boycotting today's elections. Of course it is the earnest hope of the entire country that the greater majority of Jordanian voters will exercise their solemn duties to themselves and their country by voting in accordance with their convictions. Happily, the majority of voters in Jordan are sufficiently sophisticated that trust in their judgment will be well placed. The country needs to hear them out loud and clear and the only viable way available to them is to cast their votes for the people and platforms that they genuinely believe in.

To be sure there will be many messages from the way the voters will cast their votes and such messages will offer most valuable information to the entire Kingdom. The sentiments and perspectives of Jordanians need to be gauged and assessed and today's elections are the most operational way to accomplish that critically needed mission. Otherwise the country will be marching in the dark, not fully aware of what the people think and feel. Accordingly, the higher the percentage of voters who do in fact exercise their duty and right today at the ballot boxes, the clearer would be the picture that will emerge. Otherwise, the emerging picture would be distorted and blurred and in the final analysis not solid enough to go by.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

ALL Jordanian daily newspapers on Tuesday made a prominent coverage of the parliamentary elections which will take place in Jordan Wednesday.

Al Rai said that Tuesday marked the last day in the campaign and people's thoughts and minds will focus Wednesday on electing their representatives in the coming parliament. The last day in the campaign should prompt all voters and the candidates to be more serious in their stands and take responsibility towards their homeland by conducting a smooth election process marked with a calm and comfortable atmosphere which can reflect the true nature of the Jordanian people, the paper said. The government has provided all facilities for the candidates to run their campaigns with total freedom, and provided all the means for a democratic atmosphere which ought to be maintained on election day, said the paper. The election campaign, the paper continued, was marked with useful dialogues and was maintained in a brotherly spirit which ought to continue to the last day, and after the elections. What is important, said the paper, is to remember that the country is in need of dedicated persons bent on giving the leadership to responsible candidates who can help settle problems and help their country overcome its present difficulties.

Although the Taif agreement concluded by Lebanese parliamentarians cannot be considered the end of the road, yet it provided the machinery for starting off towards the road to peace and a final settlement to Lebanon's problems, says Mahmoud Rimawi Tuesday. The writer notes with satisfaction a statement by the new president, Rene Muawad, inviting all factions in Lebanon to help bring about the aspired national reconciliation and a final settlement because he says this will open the door for all supporters and opponents alike to come forward and participate in a constructive process to serve Lebanon. Of course Michel Aoun is now on the opposition side, having denounced the elections and announced his total rejection of the whole process, but he can come forward like all other heads of parties and groups and contribute towards a final settlement, says the writer. Aoun has to realise that Rene Muawad was elected by unanimous vote on the part of the deputies who represent the Lebanese people and that the road is now open for constructive work, leading towards a settlement to the civil strife in Lebanon, Rimawi notes. Aoun, Rimawi says, can run in the coming parliamentary elections in Lebanon which will take place after the inauguration of the president, and then he can help his supporters in any way he likes.

Al Dastour daily discussed parliamentary elections in Jordan due Wednesday. It said that the election campaign which took place over the past two months was unprecedented in Jordan's history as it was marked with total freedom and a great measure of democracy. Since the campaign was conducted in a calm and brotherly spirit there can be no reason for the election not to be conducted in a similar manner, with the voters focusing their attention on contributing towards serving their country by electing only those candidates who are serious in their objectives to serve their countrymen and nation, said the paper.

NATO, born in crisis, seeks to carve out new role

By Richard Balmforth
Reuters

BRUSSELS — Despite sweeping changes in East-West relations the West says the need for NATO has never been stronger.

The Soviet Union still seeks the dissolution of the Western alliance although Moscow's grip has weakened in Eastern Europe.

Western political analysts believe the Kremlin may be ready to wind up its military alliance, the Warsaw Pact, gracefully rather than allow it to crumble with members pulling out one by one.

But the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation rejects Moscow's insistent call — restated recently by Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze — that there has to be a trade-off with the dismantling of the Western alliance as well. On the contrary, NATO's leaders argue, the revolutionary changes afoot in Eastern Europe have increased the need for the Atlantic alliance as a fixed point in a rapidly-changing world.

"First, it (NATO) has to manage the process of change in a political environment which has become more and more fluid in recent months," Secretary-General Manfred Woerner said at a nuclear planning meeting in Portugal last month.

"Secondly, NATO must provide the main factor of stability in this period of transition," he said.

But can NATO, with military programmes still geared to the possibility of a sudden Soviet invasion that even alliance planners now discount, make the metamorphosis into a political alliance?

"We have to face the reality that NATO even for many of its publics is identified with rockets and warheads, some pretty frightening weapons. Our challenge is to overcome that," said an alliance official.

NATO's short-term future is assured by the need to oversee changes to the East-West military balance if 23-nation talks in Vienna, due to resume on November 9, reach a conventional forces in Europe (CFE) agreement which will lead to huge reductions in numbers of tanks and other military hardware on the continent.

A CFE agreement redressing the military imbalance that has obsessed NATO for 40 years would lead to reductions in NATO's stockpile of 4,000 nuclear warheads in Europe and bring relief to those member countries with strong anti-nuclear lobbies.

But the medium- and long-term future of NATO may be open to discussion.

NATO's first secretary-general, Britain's Lord Ismay, once said the alliance had been founded "to keep America in, the Soviet Union out and Germany down."

Far from keeping the Germans down, the NATO allies now might find themselves fighting to keep them in.

Talk of a reunified German nation after the flight of thousands of East Germans across the border has revived the recurring NATO nightmare of West Germany — the alliance's front-line state — opting for neutrality in exchange for reunification.

"The German question ... is going to dominate a lot of discussion about the future of NATO in the 90s," Francois Heisbourg, director of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, said in comments to Reuters.

"And NATO without Germany is not really NATO. In political and military terms it is

absolutely essential to NATO as we know it," Heisbourg said.

NATO argues it is an alliance of sovereign equals dedicated solely to legitimate defence of the West and rejects its portrayal as an equivalent of the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact.

But a future dissolution of the pact seems certain to pose a public relations problem for NATO, if not in justifying its own existence, then its military strategy and programmes.

NATO plans, for example, envisage the development of a new short-range nuclear weapon that can hit targets within 450 kilometres.

But how will it be able to argue publicly in favour of new weapons that are able to reach Poland and Hungary — now beneficiaries of Western aid — but not the Soviet Union?

The one compelling argument for NATO's continuing existence, officials say, is that it remains the only organisation that can tie the United States into the defence of Europe to counter-balance the Soviet Union.

Neither the political nor the military authorities believe that the present Kremlin leadership under Mikhail Gorbachev has aggressive intentions.

"We do not doubt the peaceful intentions of the present Soviet leadership," Woerner said in Portugal. He and others appear to accept that the alliance's military role will be scaled down in the next ten years with fewer weapons systems and fewer U.S. troops stationed in Western Europe.

But they argue a strong defence with the United States at the helm remains the only insurance of future stability in Europe.

Through the threat from the Soviet Union — described as "our unruly neighbour" recently by Woerner — will lessen as arms are reduced, the potential military challenge from the East will always lurk in the background, they say.

MANAGUA — On Feb. 25, 1990, Nicaragua will celebrate free, fair and democratic elections. The president, vice president and legislature elected then will take office, with full constitutional powers, on April 25, 1990.

These are my solemn pledges to the Nicaraguan people. I have also made these pledges in the multilateral agreements of the Central American presidents signed this year.

Regrettably, increased military activity by the contras, aimed at subverting the electoral process, threatens my ability to protect the right of Nicaraguan citizens to campaign openly and vote for the political party of their choice.

That is why I have cancelled the 19-month ceasefire with the contras.

In October, contra units newly supplied and infiltrated from Honduras closed more than 50 voter registration centres. They targeted for assassination known Sandinista supporters — community leaders, party activists, candidates for municipal offices — and slit their throats.

On Oct. 21, the contras ambushed reservists who were on

U.S.-Congress designates Oct. 25 Arab-American Day

AFTER months of intense grassroots lobbying by the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), both the House of Representatives and the United States Senate Oct. 25 passed H.J. Res. 241 designating October 25, 1989 as "National Arab-American Day."

The commemorative resolution was drafted and introduced in the House of Representatives on April 13 by Congressman James Traficant (D-OH) with the initial co-sponsorship of Representatives Merwyn Dymally, Jim Bates, Nick Rahall, Edolphus Towns, Walter Fauntroy and David Bonior.

Acknowledging that the "rich history and tradition of Arab culture has contributed to Western civilisation in many fields, including science, medicine, geography, and architecture," H.J. Res. 241 applauds the hard work and productivity of 3,000,000 Arab-Americans who "continue to make important

contributions to the economic prosperity and cultural life of our Nation since October 1854, when the first recorded Arab immigrant arrived in the United States."

H.J. Res. 241 represents the culmination of months of hard work and determined efforts by ADC members throughout the country who lobbied their congressional representatives to join the list of co-sponsors. In a June Action Alert to its entire membership, ADC stressed that 218 congressional co-sponsors were required for H.J. Res. 241 to be enacted and that many of their congressional representatives would sign on only if they were requested to do so by constituents.

In a September editorial applauding the overwhelmingly positive response of Arab-Americans to the call for grassroots action, ADC President Abdeen Jabara explained that this effort was one more example of Arab-

American involvement in the process of "impacting upon the conscience of the American body politic." He added that "we are doing this by working for the passage of such resolutions, by building national mass membership organisations, and by responding in a timely fashion to each and every attack upon people of Arab background. In short, we're putting Arab-Americans on the map."

In addition to generating hundreds of constituent calls and letters, the introduction of H.J. Res. 241 received the enthusiastic endorsement of a number of community based ethnic organisations including the Irish National Caucus, the Armenian Assembly of America and the Institute of Urban Life.

Applauding the vote, Abdeen Jabara noted that this was the first time that Arab-Americans had succeeded in getting a majority of the House of Representatives to co-sponsor legislation

that speaks to their interests. He asserted that the passage of the "National Arab-American Day" Resolution was "demonstrative of the growing ability of Arab-Americans all over the country to work in a concerted national effort on a single issue." He said "this victory bears out ADC's slogan 'Strength in Numbers.'"

He further stated that "this resolution is important for Arab-Americans both as a tool to increase their interaction with their congressional representatives and, at the same time, to educate members of Congress and the American public to the fact that there is an Arab-American community that is a vital and dynamic part of this fabric of these United States."

With the passage of H.J. Res. 241, President Bush is "authorised" and "requested" by Congress to issue a formal proclamation designating October 25, 1989 as National Arab-American Day — ADC press release

Europe nervous over German reunification

By Carol J. Williams
The Associated Press

BONN. West Germany's head of the federal interior ministry in Bonn. "If they decide that as Germans they would like to be with us, for instance, we have to accept that. This is in our constitution."

Dobies' comments came during a three-day discussion between lawmakers from East and West sponsored by the North Atlantic Assembly, an advisory body to NATO.

The long-dormant idea of a reunified Germany has been revitalised in recent months by the flight of tens of thousands of East Germans disillusioned with conditions in their country.

The developments in East Germany and the consequences for a reunified Germany were focal points of Mitterrand's talks with Chancellor Helmut Kohl. "No responsible politician in Europe can ponder the future without taking this into consideration," Mitterrand said of the reunification debate. "It is a phenomenon that will dominate the end of this century."

"It will go quickly, very quickly, but maybe not so quickly as many would like," the French president added in a clear reference to West Germans who want

to speed up the process. U.S. President George Bush said in an interview with the New York Times last week that he doesn't "share the concern that some European countries have about a reunified Germany."

European parliamentarians at the East-West roundtable did indeed show discomfort. They pressed the West Germans to explain their intentions.

"We are very much concerned about the impact the rapprochement of the two Germany might have on the European Community," said Loic Bonvard, a French member of parliament.

Pieter Maris of the Netherlands' parliament noted the thorny problems of bringing together the two Germanys belonging to opposite political and defence camps. He asked the West Germans to explain what they see as "the last step."

West European unease with reunification talk likely reflects concern about the emergence of an overpowering economy as much as security questions. Joining the two states would boost the population to more than 75 million and expand the industrial base of what is already Europe's strongest economy, West Germany.

"It is not our place to philosophise about what will happen

there," Bohuslav Kucera, vice-president of Czechoslovakian parliament, said in reference to reunification. "But no government should renounce agreements contained in the Helsinki accords that ensure respect for post-war realities."

Some East European states, like Czechoslovakia, view efforts at reunification as a campaign fuelled by German revenge to reclaim territory lost in World War II.

The Kremlin has hinted through envoys abroad that it might not object to East Germany's departure from the Warsaw Pact if the populace so decided.

"Everything is up to the Germans," the Bonn-based daily Die Welt quoted Nikolai Shishlin as saying when asked during an interview in Washington about Soviet attitudes towards reunification. Shishlin is head of the Communist Party central committee's East European department.

However, the Kremlin's fundamental position has always been that the Warsaw Pact is necessary for Soviet security and serves as an essential counterbalance to NATO.

Istvan Gyarmati, a deputy foreign minister of Hungary and a negotiator at the Vienna-based conventional arms talks, said Europeans would accept reunification if the existing military blocs were dissolved. However, there is no sign of this happening soon.

The head of the national defence committee in Poland's parliament, Jerzy Golaczynski, said his nation recognises the right of both East Germany and West Germany to determine their own futures.

"But it has been made clear at this conference that reunification is not just a concern for Germany, but for all of Europe and the world," Golaczynski said.

Blame the contras for wrecking the peace

By Daniel Ortega Saavedra

MANAGUA — On Feb. 25, 1990, Nicaragua will celebrate free, fair and democratic elections. The president, vice president and legislature elected then will take office, with full constitutional powers, on April 25, 1990.

These are my solemn pledges to the Nicaraguan people. I have also made these pledges in the multilateral agreements of the Central American presidents signed this year.

Regrettably, increased military activity by the contras, aimed at subverting the electoral process, threatens my ability to protect the right of Nicaraguan citizens to campaign openly and vote for the political party of their choice.

That is why I have cancelled the 19-month ceasefire with the contras.

In October, contra units newly supplied and infiltrated from Honduras closed more than 50 voter registration centres. They targeted for assassination known Sandinista supporters — community leaders, party activists, candidates for municipal offices — and slit their throats.

On Oct. 21, the contras ambushed reservists who were on

their way to register to vote, killing 19 and wounding six. Last Tuesday, they murdered four farmers at a cooperative near San Miguelito. At my invitation, observers from the United Nations, the Organisation of American States and the U.S. Embassy visited the scene of the attack to view the corpses and interview survivors.

Why the upswing in contra violence? The success of our electoral process has made them desperate. They fear that free elections, duly recognised by the international community, will end their flickering hopes of continuing the war.

Their only chance, as they see it, is to step up attacks on civilians, forcing the government to impose security measures. The government's reaction is then to be presented as evidence of its hostility to democratic elections.

The contras' main supporters inside Nicaragua, the National Opposition Union, are accusing me of plotting to cancel the elections. In fact, this is precisely what they want me to do. They are as convinced as I am that when the elections are held — and they will be — the Nicara-

guan people will give the Sandinistas a landslide victory.

My principal goal at the hemisphere summit in Costa Rica last weekend was to obtain the assistance in ending contra violence. I wanted them to use the leaders' influence to secure full implementation of the Tela accords, which call for the demobilisation and disarmament of the contras by Dec. 5. That is the most effective way to stop contra attacks.

It is now clear that there is little point in concentrating our peace efforts around the single issue of a ceasefire. We do not consider it an acceptable ceasefire when we cease and the contras fire. For peace to be achieved, the war itself must be stopped. There is no other way to end the war than to start immediately the demobilisation of the contras.

President George Bush reacted with a torrent of personal invective. He accused me of spoiling the "garden party" in Costa Rica. Well, life in my country is no "garden party." Eight years of war financed and directed by the Reagan and Bush administrations have seen to that.

The American leader may not

intend to reactivate the contras militarily. Latin American leaders close to him tell me that he, too, wants to demobilise the contras, but not until after Nicaragua's elections. Allegedly, he fears that demobilising them before then would expose him to charges of betrayal from right-wing elements of the Republican Party. Thus, current U.S. aid is supposedly intended to placate these extremists, not to resurrect the contras.

Nevertheless, the contras have used Mr. Bush's aid to inflict more death and destruction on Nicaragua.

All well meaning people want two things in Nicaragua between now and February: An end to the fighting and the holding of democratic elections. In spite of everything, Mr. Bush may mean well. He can demonstrate this by supporting prompt demobilisation of the contras. The alternative is to continue to condemn the Nicaraguan people to the daily cries of grief from those whose loved ones are slaughtered by the contras.

A truly "big man" would have no difficulty making the right choice — The New York Times.

LETTERS

See for yourself

To the Editor:

EVERYONE who visits Israel, perhaps with the exception of United States congressmen, becomes convinced that Israeli practices overshadow the alleged Nazi atrocities, and any sympathy he might have had with Israel will have evaporated before he leaves Lydda (Ben Gurion) airport. It will be a big service for the cause of justice if many more delegations representing religious, media, social and trade union organisations are encouraged to visit our "paradise lost" and see for themselves the savagery of the Middle Ages revived in the Twentieth Century.

George Khoury
Amman

Stones and Yoghurt

By Michal Sela

VOLUNTARY women's organisations operate in the dozens in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. They found and operate day-care centres, kindergartens and orphanages, support needy families and organise educational and vocational programmes. Much of this activity is carried out with the help of donations collected in the territories, the Gulf States and Europe. Not surprisingly, many have a clear political dimension, being allied to one of the Palestinian political organisations. However, since the beginning of the intifada, the political aspect of much of this voluntary activity has moved to the fore. A few months after the intifada broke out, the chairwoman of the Nahal Red Crescent association was arrested, accused of illegal possession of \$300,000, apparently for intifada-related activity.

A year ago a section of the al-Bireh based In'ash al-Ura ("the rehabilitation of the family") complex was closed after the authorities found evidence of subversive activity and printed material, allegedly of a highly inciting nature, on the premises. The association, which employs 4,800 women, runs schools, workshops and sports, youth and cultural activities. A

recent Supreme Court judgment determined that the two-year closure order was excessive and authorised the association to reopen at the beginning of next year.

The military authorities claim there will be no intervention in the activities of women's associations so long as they confine themselves to social work. However, it is clear that the line between social, cultural or educational activities and activities of a political nature is often finely drawn.

NOTHING ABOUT the warehouse in a back street of the village of Abasan in the Gaza Strip, hints at the line of activity within. Inside, 12 women belonging to Kham Yonis branch of the Palestinian Women's Work Committees are busy producing home-style cookies. Four other women are preparing yoghurt with the aid of a home-sized yoghurt machine.

Curiously, one of them is wearing the red-laced blue blouse of an Israeli youth movement — a secondhand purchase.

"It's all pure women's labour," says one of them, Tahani Abu Dakka. "Only the night guard is a man."

The idea was born in 1978. "We conducted door-to-door research in the refugee camps and villages, asking women about their needs," relates Zahira Kam-

al, chairwoman of the Women's Work Committees. Kamal, a teacher at a Ramallah-based teachers' college divides her time between her job and voluntary activity, which now includes as well, long hours of meetings with Israeli women.

In some villages, the committees opened courses in literacy, in others, handicraft workshops which also offered day care for the children of the women employed there.

"We were a small group of women who used to meet and discuss what could we do to improve our lives as women," says Abu Dakka, 29, herself a mother of three. "One day, the idea of a biscuit plant came up."

They founded a cooperative association, opened a day care centre and simply started baking mother's traditional recipes.

THEN THE intifada started, and the idea of self-reliance took root. They decided to expand. They received donations from an oven and a refrigerator from the Save the Children organisation and a British charity.

As their husband's wage packets shrank as a result of strikes and curfews, they began to branch out. "We had to find alternatives," Abu Dakka relates. "Living in a rural area with sheep and cows, we can make proper, professional use of the

milk."

They started on an experimental scale, teaching themselves by trial and error.

Once they became more confident, they decided to purchase a herd. For the meantime, while the animals are young, two women are enough to milk and care for the 120-head herd.

They sell their products mainly in the Khan Yunis area and in Gaza.

The women do not yet have the experience to expand their operations, and doubt the authorities would permit it. "They cut our electricity off because we didn't pay our bills. That was okay. But even after we paid, the deputy governor of the area came, climbed up the pylon and cut the cable."

In a traditional, patriarchal society, the military authorities are often the lesser problem. "At the beginning, the husbands did not say a word," says Abu Dakka. "They were sure we would fail. They watched us and laughed at us. When we started to succeed and bought the sheep, they began to trust us."

Abu Dakka admits that at first, her husband did not like the idea of his wife working outside the home. She was allowed to go out only a few times a week.

"With the drop in men's wages, more men understand the import-

ance of our contribution," she says. Her husband, she reports, has gone so far as to help with the children, feed them when she is away, or even help them with their homework. "Every woman wants to live in a more progressive community," she says. "It's not yet like Western society, but it's already far beyond the starting point."

THE MILITARY authorities are monitoring the Work Committees' activities closely. "Their plant existed before the uprising and it poses no threat to us," says a high-ranking official in the military government. "As an example you can take the Hebron-based dairy plant that expanded four times over during the uprising. However, we won't allow any industry to threaten Israeli production."

On Palestinian women's associations in general, the official says: "As long as they confine themselves to adult education and yoghurt, we have no objection."

However, Tahani Abu Dakka herself spent six months in administrative detention in Husharon prison and when asked to comment, the official says that if a voluntary association serves as a cover for illegal or unacceptable activity, those in charge will be held responsible. "In some cases, if we don't have enough



information to stand up in court, the authorities will use administrative detention. But we've never sent a woman to jail for voluntary activity which is part of the association's platform.



gional council, an Atlanta-based policy centre which has long lobbied for desegregation.

"We are no longer solidly segregated, solidly democratic or solidly poor. But the south still lives with the ghosts and legacies of segregation," he said.

Evidence points to numerous conflicting trends but several clear patterns.

After several decades in which millions migrated to escape segregation and poverty, the U.S. census bureau recently reported that blacks moving to southern states from the northeast or mid-west now outnumber those leaving.

Apart from seeking opportunity in the new urban centres of the so-called "Sunbelt" some civil rights activists say blacks increasingly found racial animosity and poverty in northern metropolitan areas as intolerable as the old system they fought in the south.

Roughly a third of the estimated 14.5 million black southerners are now regarded as middle-class — compared with slightly under 10 per cent three decades ago and nearly 60 per cent for white southerners.

With new investment enabling several southern states to outstrip the national rate of economic growth, many blacks have prospered from improved educational opportunities that came with the end of segregation as well as governmental "affirmative-action" hiring policies aimed at countering past discrimination.

Black political power has expanded since the Voting Rights Act signed by President Lyndon Johnson in 1965 gave Washington and the federal courts authority over state election procedures to assure blacks have full access to the ballot.

Black mayors of the once-segregated cities of Atlanta, Georgia and Birmingham, Alabama, are among nearly 4,000 black elected officials in a region where civil rights activist Jesse Jackson carried the 1988 presidential primaries of several states in a vastly

changed Democratic Party that once was a bulwark of white power.

But in politics and economics southern whites and blacks remain widely separated in fact if not in law.

A solid white vote enabled Republican George Bush to sweep the 13-state region from Texas to Virginia in last year's presidential election over Democrat Michael Dukakis, whose northern liberalism was viewed with suspicion by most southerners.

Southern whites remain largely conservative with most espousing an individualistic, limited-government political creed at odds with the activist, social-policy-oriented government favoured by a majority of black voters, according to political scientist Merle Black of Emory University in Atlanta.

A major test of attitudes will come next week in the election for governor in Virginia, where polls say lieutenant governor Douglas Wilder, a black democrat running as a centrist, is narrowly leading conservative white Republican Marshall Coleman.

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A major test of attitudes will come next week in the election for governor in Virginia, where polls say Lieutenant Governor Douglas Wilder, a black Democrat running as a centrist, is narrowly leading conservative white Republican Marshall Coleman in his attempt to become the nation's first black elected governor.

Atlanta's outgoing Mayor, Andrew Young, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, told reporters a victory for Wilder would "demonstrate the south has already emerged a new day" and aid his own uphill campaign to defy deep south tradition and become Georgia's first black governor.

In the midst of a growing black economic elite and after four decades of improvements, Washington also reports the rate of black poverty has been inching up in the past few years. Black leaders say this has been aggravated by cuts in government social programmes as well as festering crime and drug abuse.

Civil rights leaders have denounced recent rulings by the new conservative majority on the U.S. supreme court, which they fear will weaken local government affirmative action plans favouring minorities in hiring and contract awards.

Pat Clark of the southern poverty law centre, which built the civil rights memorial, said the events in Montgomery were intended as a reminder to a new generation of the pain of the past struggles.

"The south is probably now no different from the rest of the country in its racial problems," she said.

The real concern is that there are signs of a new intolerance from the youngest generation which didn't go through the stress of change in the '50s and '60s. Both blacks and whites have not done a very good job of passing on to their children a sense of what we had to go through."

Hong Kong snake-soup lovers may get bitten — in the wallet

By Victoria McElrothen
Reuter

HONG KONG — Hong Kong Chinese who want to keep the chill of winter at bay may have to pay more to sip a bowl of snake-soup — an ironic twist to the year of the snake.

Planned controls on rat snakes are expected to drive up the local price of snake soup, wine and gall bladders, — traditional winter fare among Hong Kong Chinese. Rat snakes, together with cobras and king cobras, made up 30 per cent of the 200,000 live snakes imported by Hong Kong in 1988, mainly from China.

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), which ended a meeting recently in Switzerland, said it would upgrade rat snakes to appendix 2, a classification which requires scientific proof that a species will not be hurt by import or export.

"We would probably be considering controls, not prohibition," said Anthony Bennett, acting director of the British colony's agriculture and fisheries department.

"It's fair to say the controls will mean higher prices for restaurant-owners, who will probably pass that along to the consumer," he said.

A bowl of snake soup at present can cost up to \$1,000 at a top Chinese restaurant here.

Local Chinese believe snake soup and wine help to ward off autumn and winter chills.

Older Chinese believe they can bolster their strength by eating

cobra gall bladders removed while the snake is still alive.

However, local restaurateurs said the year of the snake, which lasts until late January according to the Chinese lunar calendar, was not likely to augment an already roaring winter snake soup trade.

Bennett said prior to the CITES decision, the agriculture and fisheries department had already warned the colony's 51 live snake merchants of possible restrictions on imports of king cobra, cobra and rat snake, species India had said were growing scarce.

At the CITES meeting India called for tougher measures to protect all three species, but CITES decided on greater protection for only the rat snake, sought after for its skin.

It said the snakes, which help crops by eating mice and other rodents, were on the decline and crop yields were lower as a result.

In addition to the imports of live snakes, the colony imported 95 tonnes of snake meat in 1988.

"Snakes are a \$200 million a year business in Hong Kong," said local snake-catcher Martin Walker.

"(The merchants) aren't going to give it up without a struggle," said Walker, whose company snakebustlers captures snakes that have slithered into residential areas and returns them to their natural environment.

The new controls, initially lenient, could be the first step in tougher, stricter moves, a government conservation official said.

Civil rights changed U.S. south, race issue remains

By Richard Walker
Reuter

MONTGOMERY, Alabama — The first monument in the United States honouring people killed in the crusade for black rights will be dedicated this weekend in Montgomery, Alabama — once one of the last strongholds of the "old south" of official segregation.

Hundreds of veterans of the civil rights movement are expected to converge on Montgomery Sunday for the dedication of the monument, a three metre

granite wall similar to the country's Vietnam war memorial in Washington.

The \$700,000 memorial, bearing the names of 40 blacks who died in the civil rights struggle, is only three blocks from the Alabama Capitol building, where the rebel flag of southern secession still flies.

It was there that Jefferson Davis was installed as president of the confederate states of America in 1861. That precipitated the civil war which ended black slavery and devastated the region's economy.

Also within a short walk of the memorial are the first confederate White House and the Dexter Avenue Baptist church, where the Reverend Martin Luther King was pastor when he became famous as leader of an anti-segregation bus boycott regarded as the start of the civil rights revolution.

These shrines of the old and new south co-exist peacefully but often with underlying tensions.

"These are the best of times and the worst of times for the south," said Steve Suitts, executive director of the southern re-

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Study highlights Gulf Arab role in world oil refining

MANAMA, Bahrain (Agencies) — Oil-producing Gulf countries are expanding investment in downstream facilities around the world seeking an integrated oil industry, according to a study released by the reputable economic section of Gulf International Bank.

The trend could make the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) "less relevant, at least in its ability to fix crude oil prices," the study said.

It contended that the integrated producers will become more involved with market-responsive product prices and shift in a way price competition from the crude oil market to the product market.

"As the countries with large excess capacity make more inroads into global downstream integration, they will find their interests diverging from the rest of OPEC and more in common with the major oil companies," said the study by the Bahrain-based bank.

Saudi Arabia last year signed a 50 per cent partnership deal with the giant oil company Texaco in three refineries and 11,450 retail stations in 23 states. The study said that this guaranteed a secure

outlet for an estimated 615,000 barrels per day for the kingdom, the biggest overseas outlet for any OPEC country.

Kuwait, although a pioneer in spreading out to downstream ventures, is guaranteed some 250,000 barrels per day through refinery and retail stations it outrightly bought in the United States and in northern Europe.

It said that Abu Dhabi, leading oil producer among the seven emirates federated in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) has embarked on a similar path with its acquisition of a 10 per cent stake in Spain's largest private oil refiner Cia Espanola De Petroleos (CEPSA) and a 10 per cent stake in the French company Total.

Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the UAE are members of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council, which also groups Bahrain, Qatar and Oman. The study ex-

pected the last three to follow a different pattern of downstream integration, involving tie-ups with more significant local oil producers.

The study noted reports that these countries were pushing for more downstream involvement, either through joint ventures or purchase, in America, Europe and Asia. It advised major oil consuming countries "not to over-react or resist the attempts... (but) should welcome such a development... (to) enhance the energy interdependence between producers and consumers."

"Further integration by OPEC members will change the composition of the global oil market," said the study. Large transnational companies, some state-owned, would have greater control on the oil market, while oil producers would have a bigger stake in consuming markets, alleviating some of the energy security concerns of these countries by providing continued access to crude oil, it said.

GCC oil and refining strategy will be discussed at an oil ministers' meeting on Nov. 19 in Abu Dhabi. The following day, the ministers team up in Abu Dhabi with the rest of the members of the 11-nation Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) which has sought since creation in 1968 the development and integration of Arab oil downstream operations.

OPEC's bi-annual ministerial meeting convenes in Vienna Nov. 25 to discuss production quotas of its members.

In a related development, an energy delegation from the United States, which is building up its strategic oil reserves, arrived in the UAE Monday at the start of a Gulf tour.

The seven-member delegation,

headed by Assistant Secretary of Energy John Easton, will also visit Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

A U.S. embassy spokesman told Reuters the team would discuss energy issues with the UAE oil ministry and the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC).

"The talks will cover a broad range of energy-related topics," he said without elaborating.

A UAE oil ministry official, Sheikh Mohammad Al Qassimi, said: "The talks will deal with energy cooperation between the two countries, energy developments and the attitude of the new U.S. administration towards energy matters."

Asked whether the talks would cover a Gulf contribution to U.S. strategic oil reserves, Qassimi said: "This is not on our agenda, but the Americans could raise the issue."

The idea of Gulf states leasing oil to U.S. reserves, being built up to meet any potential disruption in supplies, was mooted last summer by the U.S. Energy Department.

The U.S. reserves, held in a series of salt caverns along the U.S. Gulf coast, now total around 570 million barrels.

The United States plans to increase the strategic stockpile to 750 million barrels, then to 850 million barrels by 1995 and one billion barrels by the year 2000. Gulf industry sources said Washington would benefit from leasing oil as the target for the year 2000 could cost up to \$10 billion at current prices.

"It is a major money-saving process, although terms have not been revealed," one source said.

The current U.S. reserves would last for 81 days, nine days short of the official emergency level, based on American imports of nearly seven million barrels a day.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Royal Decree amends VAT law

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Tuesday approving an amendment to the value added tax (VAT) law. Under the amendment, an extra charge of 10 per cent will be collected on bills for services rendered by three-star hotels and restaurants in Jordan. The decree also stated that an additional charge of 10 per cent will be levied on bills issued by the Telecommunications Corporation. Another Royal Decree issued Tuesday approved regulations concerning various purchases by local councils.

'Put economics above politics'

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian newspaper has urged OPEC members to put political differences aside during the oil producing group's meeting later this month. The English-language Tehran Times said members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) should increase contacts among themselves and with other oil producers to defend the target price of \$18 per barrel. The paper said such meetings were needed for "converging the views of the two factions of OPEC." "All (OPEC) member countries must then do their utmost to make sure that the November meet will be a totally economic, non-political one," Iran's IRNA news agency quoted it as saying. OPEC's 13 members are to meet in Geneva Nov. 25 to discuss the group's production plan in 1990.

Israel introduces currency options

TEL AVIV (R) — The Bank of Israel announced Tuesday the introduction of foreign currency options, the latest step to liberalise Israel's capital market. The central bank said that from Thursday it would offer local banks a daily tender of \$3 million in dollar-pegged options. The options will not involve any foreign currency purchases, and all transactions will be made in shekels. They will permit Israeli companies to buffer themselves against fluctuations in the dollar's exchange rate. Central bank officials said that initially only dollar options would be traded. David Klein, head of the Bank of Israel's monetary department, told Reuters he hoped Israeli banks would form an over-the-counter secondary market because they would be allowed to issue any amount of their own dollar options.

Bangladesh to cut 12,000 railway jobs

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh railway authorities had withdrawn six trains from service and plan to dismiss 12,000 employees to cut costs. "More unremunerative trains will be stopped in phases," an official said. "Cutting down the excess manpower is also needed to make the state-owned railway commercially viable," he added. Railway guards had arrested nearly 50,000 people for travelling without tickets in the past three months, the official BSS news agency has said. The railway plans to boost its revenue by cutting the number of ticketless passengers, carrying more freight and reducing theft of railway property, the agency said.

Poland makes fresh zloty devaluation

WARSAW (R) — Poland devalued the zloty by 14.3 per cent Monday. The devaluation was part of a drive to narrow the large gap between the free market and official rates of the currency against the dollar. The national bank set the new rate at 2,800 zloties to the dollar against 2,400 Friday, according to figures published by the government newspaper Rzeczpospolita. It was the fourth large devaluation since the Solidarity movement ended more than 40 years of communist rule on Sept. 12. Since then the zloty has been devalued by almost 50 per cent. Since Sept. 12, the official rate of the zloty has been devalued from 1,441 to the dollar to 2,800, while the free market rate has dropped from about 12,000 zloties to the dollar to less than 7,000. Officials expect the two rates to meet somewhere between 4,000 and 5,000 zloties within three to six months. The zloty has now been devalued 14 times since the start of this year, dropping from 503 to the dollar and losing more than 80 per cent of its official rate.

IMF pledges new loan for Kenya

NAIROBI (R) — A senior IMF official has said that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was likely to approve a new loan for Kenya worth \$51 million. Ahmad Abushadi told reporters in Nairobi the new loan, worth 40 million Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), would compensate Kenya for lower earnings from its coffee and tea exports. The IMF approved 213 million SDRs (\$277 million) in fresh loans to Kenya in October last year to be drawn over three years under its Compensatory Support Facility. "Kenya looks like it is on solid grounds... it's (IMF-backed) programme is going on well," Abushadi said.

Iran to spend \$80m to rebuild port

NICOSIA (R) — Iran plans to rebuild port facilities at Khorramshahr on the southern border with Iraq, the country's main port, until it was devastated in the Gulf war. Tehran radio has said. It said reconstruction would cost \$7 billion riyals (\$80 million) and that after the first phase the port on the Shatt Al Arab waterway would be able to handle a million tonnes of goods a year. Further expansion would depend on the progress of peace talks, the radio added.

B.A. offers 'new tradition of service'

AMMAN (J.T.) — British Airways (B.A.) now offers a new First Class service unmatched by any other airline. A "New Tradition of Service" has been designed to anticipate the requirements of customers, and to combine the highest established standards with the latest technological development. Future developments include: A personal chair-mounted video system, individually operable from the seat which can help select from 55 channels of the favourite video library. (This is already available on some of B.A. 747s). In addition, an Air to Ground telephone communication system currently being trialled on Transatlantic routes, will connect the passenger via satellite to anywhere in the world.

Public tolerance weighs heavily for Gorbachev

MOSCOW (Agencies) — President Mikhail Gorbachev told economists to be cautious as they try to ease shortages and strengthen the rouble because he said consumers will rebel against radical change, according to a report published Monday.

Gorbachev's comments were aimed at economists who argue that imposition of a market economy could quickly solve the problem of shortages and bolster the nearly worthless Soviet currency.

"I know only one thing, that after two weeks such a 'market' would bring the whole nation out on the streets and sweep out any government, even one declaring devotion to the people," he said. Economists must not only take into account what the economy needs, but what people are willing to accept politically, Gorbachev said.

"We must look at how much this or that proposal takes reality into account, and how it will be accepted and digested in the minds of the people," the Soviet leader told a conference of economists.

Gorbachev reiterated that the country must not turn back to its old administrative methods or embrace capitalism.

He said the current economic woes stem from a reform programme that has not been completely worked out yet.

The changes are aimed at developing a still ill-defined socialist market system.

Economist Oleg Bogomolov complained of "large social limitations" in economic policy to steady the plunging value of the rouble.

"It's impossible to touch prices seriously. It's impossible to freeze salaries," he said.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday November 7, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	Japanese yen (for 100)	U.S. dollar
U.S. dollar	631.4	637.6	101.7	101.3	
Pound Sterling	906.7	1006.7	436.0	443.4	
Deutschmark	341.6	345.0	262.6	265.6	
Swiss franc	359.1	363.0	96.2	99.2	
			46.7	47.2	
			162.4	164.0	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

	One Sterling	One U.S. dollar	U.S. dollars	Canadian dollar	Deutschmarks	Dutch guilders	Swiss francs	Belgian francs	French francs	Italian lire	Japanese yen	Swedish crowns	Norwegian crowns	Danish crowns	U.S. dollars
	1.5830/30	1.1705/15	1.8458/63	2.0839/46	1.6200/10	38.71/74	6.2500/20	1350/1551	143.40/50	6.4170/4220	6.9185/4225	7.1610/60			
One ounce of gold	385.00/385.50														

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Stock prices slipped in trading subdued by the closure of the Melbourne Stock Exchange for a horse race. The All Ordinaries index closed 8.8 points down at 1648.2.

TOKYO — Edgy investors with an eye on currency and interest rates depressed share prices to close broadly lower in moderate trade. The Nikkei index eased 163.54 to 35,271.46.

HONG KONG — Share prices closed easier with attention concentrated on Hongkong Bank stock. The Hang Seng index fell 18.03 to 2,738.09.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed easier but above the day's lows in quiet trade after bargain-hunting. The Straits Times industrial index fell 1.99 to 1,320.48.

BOMBAY — Share prices drifted lower for the second day as the market continued to be rocked by talk that the exchange authorities planned to impose curbs on trading.

FRANKFURT — German share prices plunged by 1.8 per cent. The DAX index dived 26.31 points to 1,428.07.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed broadly lower but above morning lows to moderate trading. The all-share Swiss performance index was down 6.7 points to 1,075.8.

PARIS — French share prices were close to their day's lows at mid-session. The CAC-40 index was 19.71 points down at 1,763.21 by 1200 GMT.

LONDON — Shares staged a modest rally to stand mixed to firmer in thin afternoon trade. By 1543 GMT the FTSE 100 was 3.8 points up at 2,173.4.

NEW YORK — Technical support lifted blue chips from early losses to a small gain, but the general market remained narrowly lower. The Dow was ahead two at 2584.

Spain seeks to harness rampant economy

MADRID (R) — Finance Minister Carlos Solchaga, anxious to rein in Spain's booming economy, has said petrol, tobacco and alcohol would cost more but Spaniards would benefit by paying less income tax.

He said he planned to cut a big budget deficit by putting up taxes on consumer goods and keeping public spending in check. But income tax would be reduced.

Solchaga, speaking at a business conference just a week after a general election returned Socialist Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez for a third term, gave no hint economic policy would make the dramatic "switch to the left" demanded by trade unions.

In a broad review, he pointed to continued cautious public spending accompanied by measures to cool the economy, combat inflation — running at 6.8 per cent in September — and reduce a trade deficit which grew to

\$2.29 billion that month.

Solchaga said the government would continue efforts which began last summer and which he said had been highly successful so far — using both monetary and fiscal measures to curb consumer demand and encourage saving so fresh investment could be funded domestically.

The state's contribution to higher savings should be a zero budget deficit "as soon as possible," he said.

He said he saw the deficit being cut from a forecast of around \$10 billion this year or 2.7 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) to two per cent next year.

In the Oct. 29 election, the ruling Socialist Workers Party only just secured its third successive absolute majority. Lost votes apparently went to the Communist-led United Left coalition, which more than doubled its seats in parliament, on the back of

union demands for more public spending.

Solchaga said next year's budget would be "moderately restrictive" and public spending should not be expensive.

As the European Community worked towards harmonising taxation, Spain was bound to be pushed towards imposing higher indirect taxes on items such as petrol, tobacco and alcohol. This, along with a war on tax fraud, should boost state coffers, he said.

As a result, the government

would seek to reduce personal taxes, following up reforms which this year allowed married couples to declare their incomes separately, Solchaga said.

Solchaga also urged moderate wage rises, saying this was essential to fight inflation and maintain growth.

"Productivity has to grow faster than our competitors, both in the public and private sectors," he said. "This is not enough. Wage costs have to grow less, this is the only way our competitiveness can grow."

Pakistan frees gold imports

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan has decided in principle to allow gold to be imported freely as part of efforts to end smuggling of the precious metal.

But the cabinet-level economic coordination committee also ruled that such imports, for which no government licence would be required, would have to be routed through the state-run National Bank of Pakistan (NBP).

Up to now Pakistan has

allowed only a limited amount of gold in via the NBP to be used to make jewellery destined for export. Most of the rest has been smuggled into the country, mainly from Gulf countries.

Under the new rules, an importer would surrender foreign exchange equal to the current London price of gold, plus six per cent of the cost if the order is placed by local trader and five per cent if the importer is abroad, the official APP news agency quoted



Carlos Solchaga

Sri Lanka to cut budget deficit in '90

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka's budget deficit in 1990 is expected to shrink by 10 billion rupees (\$250 million) from 1989's gap, according to government estimates. The 1989 estimates show a deficit of 42 billion rupees (\$1 billion), down from the 1988 estimate of 52 billion rupees (\$1.25 billion). The whole budget is estimated at 103 billion rupees (\$2.5 billion) with revenue at 61 billion rupees (\$1.5 billion). The top budget item next year is an allocation of 13.4 billion rupees (\$335 million) for provincial councils, through which the government plans to decentralise its functions. Defence spending has been estimated at 10.2 billion rupees (\$250 million), up from eight billion rupees (\$200 million). Spending for President Ranasinghe Premadasa's poverty alleviation programme will fall to 4.9 billion rupees (\$125 million) from 10 billion rupees (\$250 million) in 1989. Officials said the programme was trimmed to appease the country's creditors who have been pushing for a cut back in handouts and subsidies.

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square to form four ordinary words.

KNARC

HYNIS

YELMIT

SWEFET

OFTEN DROPPED BUT SEEN PICKED UP.

Now arrange the jumbled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: _____

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: POUCH TARRY SECONO HICUP

Inside: Another name for that recurring salon — THE "PUNCH" SHOP

Peanuts

Mutt'n' Jeff

Andy Capp

WHEN I WAS A KID ON HALLOWEEN WE ALL WORE OUR JACKETS INSIDE OUT!

BECAUSE THE KIDS WENT AROUND MARKING YOU WITH CHALK.

BOYS IN THOSE DAYS WORE KNICKERS AND LONG BLACK STOCKINGS. WE'D TAKE A BLACK STOCKING AND FILL IT WITH WHITE ASHES OR FLOUR AND GO AROUND SOCKING KIDS WITH IT... WE HAD GREAT FUN!

POW! HALLOWEEN

SOUNDS SQUARE, BUT MAYBE IT BEATS SPRAYING PAINT AND SHAVING CREAM ON HOUSES AND CARS AND STUFF.

ROSEMARY

Becker to defend Stockholm title

STOCKHOLM (R) — Boris Becker, who had complained about pain in both thighs after winning the Paris Open Sunday, confirmed his participation in the Stockholm Open on Monday as the tournament began quietly.

Organisers of the \$1 million tennis Grand Prix said the Wimbledon champion's doctors had cleared him to defend his Stockholm title.

Becker, the West German world number two, made a triumphant return to the circuit after a two-month knee injury when he defeated Sweden's Stefan Edberg in the Paris final.

In Stockholm he will be challenged by Edberg, the world number three, and world number one Ivan Lendl — the first appearance by the top three in the same tournament since Becker beat Lendl in the final of the U.S. Open.

"Becker is very good right now. I had no chance in Paris, but I think I could beat him here," said Edberg, Stockholm champion in 1986 and 1987.

All seeded players in Stockholm enjoyed byes in the first round.

Swedish qualifier Ronnie Bahman, ranked 390th in the world, overcame Yugoslavia's 88th-ranked Bruno Oresar 6-3, 7-6 in first-round action to set up a second-round clash with fifth-seeded American Aaron Krickstein.

Peter Lundgren, the 94th-ranked Swede who lost to Becker in last year's final, cruised into the second round by defeating American Pete Sampras 6-4, 6-4.

Jordan, UAE, Kuwait, Syria in basketball semifinals

KUWAIT (AP) — Jordan and the United Arab Emirates have joined Kuwait and Syria in qualifying for the basketball semifinals of the Islamic Friendship and Peace Games.

The UAE teams finished on top of the group B standings after their 99-64 victory over Indonesia Monday night. The half time score was 54-59.

Jordan thrashed Cameroon 94-69 (halftime: 42-27) to secure a place in the semifinals.

Kuwait and Syria already qualified from group A as winners and runners-up respectively. Kuwait will meet Jordan and the UAE will take on Syria in the semifinals on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Kuwait topped Group A standings in handball competition by trouncing Mali 44-11. Turkey also joined the semifinals round as the second squad from the group after their 28-14 triumph over the Palestinian team.

Morocco was to clash with Algeria and Burkina Faso was to encounter Senegal in decisive matches on Tuesday to determine the semifinalists in group B.

Algeria and Senegal have three points each and Morocco is just behind with two points. Burkina Faso has no points.

The two-week games which end Nov. 12 involve 1,200 sportsmen from 45 African and Asian Islamic countries competing in field and track, basketball, handball, volleyball and soccer.

The first-ever of their kind, the sports championship was organised at the request of the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah to foster friendship and solidarity among Islamic youth. Sheikh Jaber is the current chairman of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, umbrella for the Islamic world.

Maradona in Argentina for 'marriage of decade'

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Diego Maradona, considered by many to be the world's greatest soccer player, flew to Buenos Aires Monday for his wedding in what the local press has billed "the marriage of the decade."

A former slum dweller who rose to become one of the world's best-known athletes, Maradona flew in aboard a chartered jumbo jet carrying 280 guests, including teammates from his Italian club Napoli.

Maradona, 28, was whisked away by a car at Buenos Aires' Ezeiza airport, eluding hundreds of reporters, photographers and admirers who had turned out to greet him.

The stocky midfielder was due to marry his 28-year-old common-law wife Claudia Villafane Tuesday night in two ceremonies — first at a civil registry and then at a Roman Catholic church.

Later he will be host at a party for 1,200 guests including Argentine President Carlos Menem at Buenos Aires' main boxing stadium.

"One of the Napoli fellows had a guitar, so we sang, danced and made merry the whole trip," said Gustavo Dezotti, an Argentine player with the Italian Cremonese club. "There was also quite a bit of drinking. It was a bit like an airborne stage party."

Among Maradona's guests on the plane were former Argentine international Osvaldo "Ossie" Ardiles and Alberto Tarantini, plus some members of the more recent crop of players such as Claudio Caniggia, Pedro Troglio and Maradona's brother Hugo, who boarded the flight during a stopover in Madrid.

The arrangements for the wedding have been compared to those of the parties thrown for heirs of Argentina's biggest industrial and farming fortunes.

Another plane-load of friends and family from Maradona's parents' home province in northwestern Argentina was due to arrive for the wedding.

Guests would occupy 140 rooms in two of Buenos Aires' most expensive hotels — with Maradona footing the bill.

The couples' families were hosting a barbecue for friends at a local equestrian club, where one dozen riders dressed up in typical "gaucho" attire were due to entertain.

A team of 60 men worked under the orders of an Argentine television set designer Monday to wrap the luna park, a grey bulk near Buenos Aires' port, with 15,000 metres of grey, black and white cloth and spruce up the cavernous stadium with some 4,000 plants.

The newlyweds will not have much of a honeymoon as Maradona is expected back in Naples on Thursday, the local sports magazine El Grafico said.

Browns star freed from jail

CLEVELAND, Ohio (R) — Kevin Mack, star running back of the Cleveland Browns, rejoined the team Tuesday after spending six weeks in jail on a drug charge.

Mack, 26, was ordered to undergo treatment and random drug testing as a condition of his release on two years probation. He was sentenced to six months in jail on Oct. 3 after being found guilty of possession of crack, a form of cocaine.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1989
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day and evening when you will have a considerable amount of vitality and be able to easily put your ideas across by concentrating upon the most constructive issues.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Take a trip with two interesting friends today. Let your family assist you with your labour obligations.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Attend to any business matters connected with pleasure, entertainment or adornment. Fusing with your mate will do no good.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Don't let an ambitious friend take advantage of you. Your family will give you the best suggestions of a business nature.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Entertaining all types of friends be sure it is a dutiful treat. Entertain a group of friends at home.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Avoid a potential disagreement with your family over practical matters. Invite a younger person in your life to an interesting place.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Try to get a family member to go on a trip with you. Do thoughtful things now for your various friends.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Take advice from a friend about a condition that worries you.

You will need to be particularly astute about your business.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) All kinds of tension can occur in your business affairs. Make up your mind now to get along with your friend.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Join with good friends now in social activities. Being very thoughtful and considerate helps you at home.

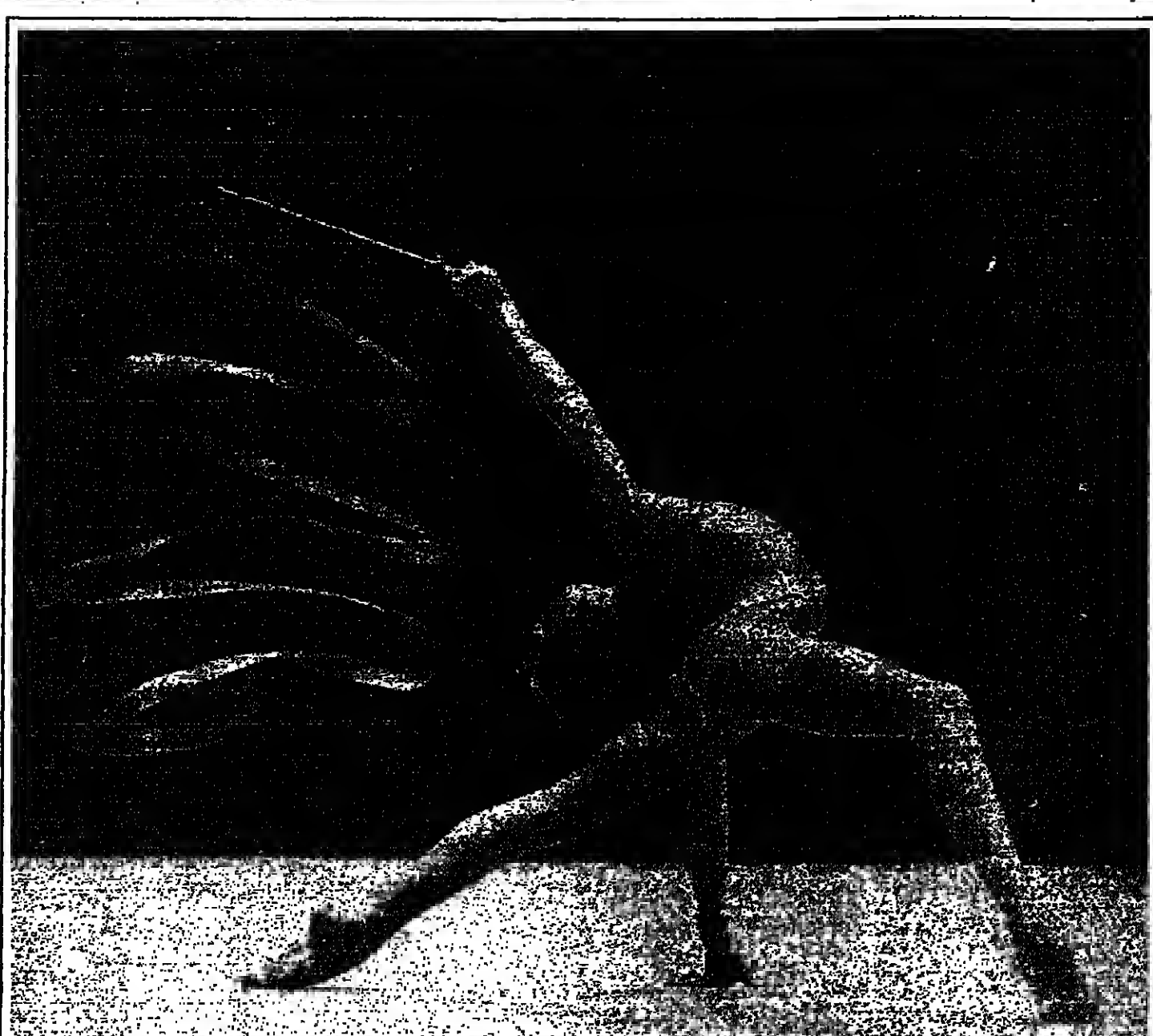
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Do your business now in the most progressive manner possible. Too great a demand for emotional pleasure turns off mate.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) New friends can bring you much pleasure. Angry and sharp words will only bring confrontation at home today.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A friend will try to get out of a trip with you. Be sure business information you get actually applies to you.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she will have excellent ideas for self betterment that will benefit the family unit. This progeny will seek out and listen to the advice of others with more expertise. Upon reaching maturity this well organized individual will prove clever in business.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.



POETESS in motion... so demanding were the standards that this graceful exhibition by Debbie Southwick of Widnes earned no higher than ninth place in the Daily Mirror rhythmic gymnastics international at Wembley Conference Centre Nov. 5. The old medal went to Blanka Panova, the 20-year-old world silver medal winner from Bulgaria, by three-quarters of a mark from Oksana Kostina of the Soviet Union. Panova was in dazzling form, scoring 9.90 for rope, hoop and ball, and 9.95 for her rhythmic exercise. Ada Liberio of Spain took bronze, 1.70 marks behind Panova, and the best Briton, Viva Seifert of London, was sixth (Photo by Tom Jenkins)

Bunge defeats Novotna at Virginia Slims

CHICAGO (AP) — Bettina Bunge beat fifth-seeded Jana Novotna 6-2, 6-7 (4-7), 6-0, and Marianne Werdel beat eighth-seeded Natalia Zvereva 6-2, 6-3, Monday night in the first round of the Virginia Slims of Chicago.

Bunge, ranked 95th in the world, scored with several winners down the baseline and neatly placed drop shots against Novotna, ranked 10th.

Zvereva, ranked 15th, forced Werdel to duce six times in the ninth and final game of the second set before losing her seventh first-round match this year. It eliminated her from advancing to next week's championship in New York.

The 22-year-old Werdel, who is from Bakersfield, California, is ranked 109th in the world. She led the second set 3-1 but was broken in the fifth game, held serve in the seventh and broke back in the eighth for a 5-3 lead. Zvereva, down 4-5 and 0-30, fought back to duce but Werdel went to add on a passing shot and won as Zvereva returned a serve long.

Earlier, Kathy Rinaldi rallied from a 5-4 third-set deficit and triple-match point to beat amateur Amy Frazier 3-6, 7-5, 7-6 (8-6).

Rinaldi, of Amelia Island, Fla., trailed 4-5 and 15-40 in the final set when the 17-year-old Frazier hit two straight returns wide. Rinaldi tied the set at 5-5 and eventually won in an 8-6 tiebreaker, taking the final three points for the match.

Frazier, ranked 32nd in the world, trailed 4-2 in the final set but rallied behind a two-fisted backhand and Crisp Rocco court volleys to move ahead 5-4. Frazier, of Rochester Hills, Mich., had triple-match point at 5-4 in the second set but Rinaldi won five consecutive points to even the set at 5-5. Rinaldi held serve and broke Frazier in the 12th and final game, which went to duce five times.

Both players attempted to beat each other with groundstrokes, with some points stretching to 40 shots.

In other first-round matches, Peruvian-born Pilar Vasquez, now living in Key Biscayne, Fla., beat Kate Gompert of Rancho Mirage, Calif., 6-3, 6-2 in 48 minutes and Anne Smith of Dallas beat Eva Pfaff of West Germany 6-3, 6-3.

Vasquez, ranked 167th, plays second-seeded Zina Garrison of Houston Wednesday. Garrison, along with no. 1 seed Martina Navratilova, third-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia, and fourth-seeded Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria, all have first-round byes.

Navratilova, \$44,000 short of the \$15-million mark in earnings, is trying for her fourth consecutive Chicago title and the \$50,000 first prize.

Grabb, Aenor lose in Stockholm

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Jim Grabb of the United States and Ronald Aenor of Haiti, the highest-ranked players in action opening night, were eliminated Monday in the first round of the \$1,025,000 Stockholm Open tennis tournament.

Aenor, a French-based Haitian ranked 35th in the world, dropped a 6-4, 7-5 decision to big-serving qualifier Milan Srejber of Czechoslovakia.

Grabb, who upset Mats Wilander early in the tournament here two years ago, lost 3-6, 6-4, 6-3 to Niclas Kroon of Sweden. Grabb was ranked 38th in the world going into the tournament.

Ronnie Bahman of Sweden, who's ranked only 390th in the world, defeated Bruno Oresar of Yugoslavia 6-3, 7-6 for his second grand prize win of the year. The Swede played nine sets in two days of qualifying to get into the main draw.

Ivan Lendl, Boris Becker and Stefan Edberg, the world's three top-ranked players, will not play until Wednesday. All 16 seeds received first-round byes.

Peter Lundgren of Sweden, who lost last year's final to Becker, defeated Pete Sampras of the United States 6-4, 6-4.

After two decades in the old Royal Tennis Hall, the world's oldest indoor grand prix event moved to Europe's newest sports arena, the 16,000-seat globe.

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LOST PASSPORT

I, GURMEJ SINGH, announce that one week ago, I lost my Indian passport, its number W 047008, issued from Jalandhar in 29/Oct/84.
He who finds it, please hand it over to the Indian Embassy/Amman with my gratefulness.



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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
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HANDLE WITH CARE

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ 8 4
♥ Q 9 4 2
♦ A K 9 4 2
♣ A 7 5 3 2

EAST
♠ K Q 6 3
♥ A 10 6
♦ Q 7 6 3
♣ 10 4

SOUTH
♠ A J 5
♥ J 9 7 3 2
♦ J 5
♣ K J 8

The bidding:
West North East South
Pass 1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠
Pass 2 ♠ Pass 2 NT
Pass 3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠

The inexperienced player goes for every finesse in sight. The hallmark of the expert is that he tries to avoid relying on a finesse, if possible.

When he learned his partner had an unbalanced hand with three-card heart support—and shortness in spades, South wisely elected to play in four hearts rather than three no trump. The former rated to have a far greater chance of success.

West led the top of his spade sequence, and declarer ruffed. The ace and king of diamonds were cashed, followed by a diamond, carefully ruffed with the seven. West overruffed with the king and unwisely continued spades, again ruffed in dummy. A fourth diamond was ruffed with the nine, establishing the 13th diamond on the table. A trump to the queen and ace left declarer in control. Declarer won the spade return with his ace, cashed the jack of trumps and, leaving the master trump out, he crossed to the ace of clubs to discard a club on the fifth diamond. The defenders could take their high trump whenever they wished, but that would be the third and last trick for the defense. Declarer lost only three trump tricks.

Note the care declarer exercised in ruffing in his contract. He ruffed spades while retaining the ace in his hand to control the suit. And he prudently ruffed the first diamond with the seven, and not with the two, to protect against a 4-2 break.

THE Daily Crossword by Kenneth Witte

ACROSS

- Songs
- Musical org.
- Sail warrior's material
- Commander's word
- Tips
- Authoritative relation
- by (correctly placed)
- Military installation
- Vehicle
- Stool pigeon
- Also
- Act
- authoritatively
- Ind. city
- Campus building
- Bridge action
- Clad
- Sister
- Fleming
- What's cooking
- Collection of anecdotes
- Indie
- St. Guinness
- Authoritative source
- Encountered
- grade
- Ornamental surface
- Adobe houses
- Whitish prof.
- Written
- Railroad d.
- Artist's need
- Buena
- Spain
- Mormon abbr.
- Johns' exes
- Of hearing
- Antelope
- Enamelled
- Leach
- It's clear to me
- Verily
- Coup d'
- Sound of speeding car?
- "masse"
- Pressing
- Contemptuous address of old
- Small boy
- Beats out
- March
- Polaris' dagger
- "Five"
- Royal territory
- Diplomatic etiquette
- Band's adverb
- Tee-tung
- Crab's claw
- Symbol
- Paradise
- Transmit
- Cavalry area
- Donk
- "Do —"
- Sp. river
- Skip sideways
- Buckeye state
- Hirt and Jensen
- 58 Annoy
- Pipe joint
- Curve

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

DOWN

- TV letters
- Campus cheer
- Leader's go.
- Quelcon
- Lampoon
- Eureka kid
- Lias

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SUMMER JOB

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 9:00

Cinema Tel: 677420

CONCORD

KICK BOXER

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 634144

PHILADELPHIA

ST. ELMO'S FIRE

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema Tel: 675571

NIJOM

ARTHUR 2 ON THE ROCKS

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 677420

PLAZA

TWINS

Performances: 12:30, 3:30, 6:45, 9:00

Namibians start voting

WINDHOEK (R) — Namibians began voting Tuesday in a five-day election moving them towards independence after 74 years of South African rule.

"Today, we are finally burying apartheid colonialism. Victory is ours," said Sam Nujoma, leader of the SWAPO movement which fought Pretoria for 23 years and is expected to be the winner of the election when results are known next week.

Nujoma, who ended nearly 30 years of exile in September, was an early voter among the 700,000 Namibians eligible to cast ballots in the poll overseen by United Nations peacekeeping forces.

He spoke in a stronghold of SWAPO (South West Africa People's Organisation), Katutura, where the only reported incident in the first hours of voting was the appearance of metal spikes scattered on a road in the dusty black township adjoining Windhoek.

Cheerful crowds stood in queues more than one kilometre long, many openly pledging support for the leftist SWAPO, which is expected to dominate the first post-independence government likely to be formed next April.

In Oshakati, a northern Namibian town which bore the brunt of SWAPO's guerrilla war, there were cheerful but chaotic scenes as crowds packed into polling stations.

A U.N. spokesman, Hugo Anson, said: "We expected a huge crowd like this and some confusion on the first day of polling."

"We are pleased to see so many people have turned out. Voting was slower in areas lived in by Namibia's 80,000 minority whites."

The atmosphere in the Windhoek area was calm, in contrast to a turbulent prelude to the election which included South African allegations, later withdrawn, of a SWAPO invasion from neighbouring Angola.

The Ovambo region around Oshakati is the most densely populated region of Namibia, with almost half the territory's population.

But parts of the area are so cut off that four helicopters are being used as mobile polling stations, ferrying ballot boxes from place to place.

Anson termed conditions as "calm at the moment."

On the eve of the vote, tension rose when a light plane chartered by SWAPO's main rival, the centrist Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA), was hit by gunfire near the Angolan border and had to make an emergency landing.

Both SWAPO and the DTA, by far the biggest of the 10 parties fighting the election, have accused each other of intimidation, sporadic violence has cost several lives.

In a full-page advertisement in the Namibian, a pro-SWAPO newspaper, Nujoma called for responsible behaviour by his compatriots — including refraining from drunkenness.

Namibia is best known for its rich reserves of diamonds and uranium but the backwardness of the territory on southern Africa's Atlantic coast is shown by the fact that about 60 per cent of voters are illiterate.

The huge U.N. supervisory operation involves almost 8,000 peacekeepers, making the election what chief U.N. Representative Martti Ahtisaari terms the most closely monitored vote in the world body's history.

The election is for a constituent assembly of 72 members which will write Namibia's independent constitution.

While SWAPO is expected to win, it aims to get a two-thirds majority so it can enforce its own constitutional proposals.



A Sandinista soldier stops to eat while riding in a military caravan

U.S. closes emigration route for Soviet Jews

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States, overwhelmed by Soviet Jews seeking to emigrate here and concerned about fraudulent documents, closed off a key immigration route Monday.

The State Department had imposed a Nov. 6 deadline, under which Soviet Jews had to obtain Israeli visas in order to proceed to Rome and Vienna for processing by U.S. officials.

Anyone who gets an Israeli visa after Monday must wait in Moscow for processing to go to the United States, deputy spokesman Richard Boucher said.

For years, the route through Rome and Vienna was virtually the only path for Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union to the United States.

Most of the people using this route could not be processed directly from the Soviet Union because they did not have family members in the United States and Moscow required invitations from such family members before they would issue exit permits, a U.S. official said.

The new deadline may mean that some Soviet Jews will have to wait longer for entry into the United States and it should save Washington millions of dollars now spent caring for emigrants while they await processing in Rome and Vienna, U.S. officials said.

It also could make it likely more Soviet Jews will go to Israel, a long-sought goal of the Israeli government.

U.S. officials said the number of people applying and receiving Israeli visas in Moscow has been

very high, including 11,000 last month alone.

It cost the United States \$35 million last year to care for Soviet emigrants being processed in Rome and Vienna and this has created a strain on the U.S. budget, an official said.

Monday's deadline was the second one imposed by the United States in an attempt to stem the emigration tide.

It earlier announced that Soviet citizens would have to obtain a Soviet exit permit before Oct. 1 to apply to the U.S. programme in Rome and Vienna.

Boucher said the department reserved the right to implement a second cut-off date, depending on how many applications were processed.

In October, the department found backdated Soviet exit permits were being sold on the black market and concluded this pattern would probably grow. U.S. officials said.

For years, the United States has faulted the Soviet Union for controlling Jewish emigration. But under President Mikhail Gorbachev, emigration has hit record numbers and put an increasing strain on the United States, which imposed a new ceiling of 50,000 Soviet emigrants for the coming year.

The National Conference on Soviet Jewry reported recently that 9,450 Jews left the Soviet Union in October, the highest monthly figure since it began tabulating statistics in 1968.

Of this number, only 1,565 or 16.5 per cent went to Israel.

Contras agree to attend talks

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — U.S.-supported contra rebels have agreed to meet Nicaragua government representatives this week for their first direct talks in more than a year, officials announced Monday.

The meetings will take place Thursday and Friday at United Nations headquarters in New York, said Gretel Vargas, the first secretary to Nicaragua's U.N. mission.

Nicaragua's government proposed the meeting when it cancelled a 19-month cease-fire with the U.S.-backed contras last Wednesday.

Contra military leader Enrique Bermudez told the Associated Press in Honduras Monday that the rebel delegation would travel Thursday from the Tegucigalpa to New York.

"We will make another effort to end the war and bloodshed in Nicaragua. We will make another effort to have the Nicaraguan electoral process be fulfilled Feb. 25, 1990," Bermudez said.

Bermudez said he would lead a five-man contra delegation. Nicaragua's delegation is expected to be headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco.

Nicaraguan Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo has agreed to attend as an observer. He is

trusted by the contras, and has served as a go-between for them and the Sandinistas in the past.

A senior U.N. official said privately that all issues will be on the table, including disbanding the contras, security guarantees for returning rebels, and political reform in Nicaragua.

The contras are expected to insist on resuming the ceasefire as a first step, he said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The two sides will be meeting with the joint U.N.-Organisation of American States (OAS) "international commission for verification and support," set up under a Central American peace plan to help the contras and their family voluntarily disarm and resettle.

The peace plan signed Aug. 7 in Tela, Honduras, calls for the contras to be disbanded by Dec. 5, but also specifies that their repatriation to Nicaragua must be voluntary.

So far, the contras have shown no inclination to lay down their weapons and return home.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega accused infiltrating contras of killing dozens of people in the country and trying to disrupt February's national elections.

The contras have denied Ortega's allegations. Honduras also agreed Monday

to attend the talks this week. Honduras will maintain observer status at the talks, President Jose Azcona said in a letter to Ortega.

"Even though Honduras is not part of Nicaragua's internal conflict... I have taken the decision to name a representative, headed by the Honduran ambassador to the United Nations," Azcona said.

The U.S. State Department has said about 2,000 contras have infiltrated Nicaragua in recent weeks from neighbouring Honduras. About 10,000 contras remain in Honduras and 4,000 are in Nicaragua.

The last time the contras and Sandinistas held direct peace talks was in June 1988. Those talks broke down when Nicaragua refused to agree to sweeping contra demands for reform, including an end to government control of the army and police.

In Nicaragua, sources in Chontales, Boaco and Rio San Juan provinces told the Associated Press Monday there had been intense military activity for several days in the area.

Other sources, who also refused to be identified, reported fighting Monday at a known transit point for rebels coming from the north near the Honduran border.

Cucumber gun lands robber in jail

LONDON (AP) — A robber whose cucumber "gun" fooled cashiers into handing over more than £12,000 (\$18,840) was sentenced Monday to seven years in prison.

Ernest Coveley, 37, wrapped the vegetable in a plastic bag and waved it like a sawed-off shotgun at cashiers in mortgage-lending institutions known as building societies, a court was told.

On two occasions, when he was unable to afford the price of a cucumber, he used an iron bar. Defence lawyer Stephen Pownall said Coveley used a cucumber because it was the most innocuous thing he could think of.

But Circuit Judge Edwin told Coveley he was frightened his victims. "They were put in great fear, not to say terror by you," the judge said. "I have no doubt you used the cucumber so that if you were caught later in the street you would be able to point to the vegetable and deny any responsibility for what you had done."

Bardot sued for damages after castrating donkey

SAINT TROPEZ, France (R) — Film star Brigitte Bardot is being asked to pay almost \$4,000 compensation for castrating a donkey which got too friendly with her pets, a court heard Monday.

Owner Jean-Pierre Manivet is suing the animal rights campaigner for 4,500 francs (\$700) in "material" damages and 20,000 francs (\$3,200) in "moral" damages for castrating Charly, the donkey. Bardot, who lives near the southern resort of Saint Tropez, had the animal castrated after it tried to mount her own donkey and an ageing mare.

Manivet claims Bardot agreed to take care of the donkey and had castrated without his permission. But Bardot's lawyer said Monday the animal had been abandoned by her neighbour. A magistrate will rule on the affair Dec. 4.

Bardot, who is herself demanding 20,000 francs (\$3,200) worth of damages for an unnecessary trial, did not appear in court.

Paintings worth millions stolen from Picasso villa

CANNES, France (R) — Thieves cleaned out art treasures worth up to \$20 million from the Cote d'Azur home of Pablo Picasso's granddaughter, police said Monday. Among a dozen works taken from her secluded villa in the California district of Cannes in a 30-minute robbery Sunday were several Picassos and a painting by 16th-century master Pieter Breughel. The sources said Marina Picasso was absent when the burglary took place, guard dogs were locked up, the electronic alarm was not working and a watchman had gone out shopping.

Blind driver sets record

PENDINE SANDS, Wales (AP) — Former rally driver Peter Wood, who lost his sight 13 years ago, drove nearly 200 kilometres per hour Sunday to make the first land speed record for a blind person. Wood, 46, roared across the Pendine Sands, west Wales, in pursuit of Sir Malcolm Campbell's first land speed record of 235.2 kilometres per hour set in 1924. Although he failed to match that speed, Wood did set his own, unique, record as a blind man by reaching a speed of 205.94 kilometres per hour. With his son Tom, 25, in the passenger seat acting as his eyes and navigator, Wood made four runs over a measured kilometres driving a turbo-charged Ford Sierra Cosworth.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Britain: No evidence Hess murdered

LONDON (R) — Britain said Monday there is no evidence to support claims that Hitler's former deputy Rudolf Hess was murdered in West Berlin's Spandau prison in 1987. Solicitor General Sir Nicholas Lyell told parliament that nothing in a British police report cast doubt on the official finding that Hess, the last known surviving top Nazi, had hanged himself with a length of electrical cable. Hess's family and British historian Hugh Thomas maintain that Hitler's former confidante was murdered at the prison where he had been held for the last 40 of his 93 years. The British police inquiry was launched in response to Thomas' accusations. "Inquiries carried out by ... (police) have produced no cogent evidence to suggest that Rudolf Hess was murdered," Lyell said.

Red Brigade member draws life term

LUGANDO, Switzerland (AP) — A Swiss court has convicted an alleged member of Italy's Red Brigade group in the 1978 murder of a Rome judge and sentenced him to the maximum term of life imprisonment. Alvaro Baragiola-Lojano, 34, was found guilty of complicity in the killing of Judge Girolamo Tartagioni and of robbing several banks for the Red Brigade. Baragiola denied all charges and also denied belonging to the Red Brigade. The verdict came after a four-week trial during which several other former Red Brigade members testified. Baragiola, of Italian-Swiss parents, was arrested June 8, 1988, in the Swiss canton of Ticino, to where he had fled via Brazil to escape serving a life sentence in Italy.

U.S. bomber crashes into strait

OAK HARBOUR, Washington (AP) — A U.S. navy jet crashed into the Strait of Juan de Fuca Monday after its two crew members parachuted to safety, the navy said. The A-6E jet, built by Grumman as a carrier-borne bomber, went into the water west of the Whidbey Island naval air station. A spokeswoman for the air station said the two crew members were picked up and taken to the base hospital. The A-6E Class of jets are known as intruders for their ability to fly low and in inclement weather. The Strait of Juan de Fuca separates Washington state from British Columbia's Vancouver Island.

Solidarity takes its first city hall

LODZ, Poland (AP) — A Solidarity candidate was elected head of Poland's second-largest city Monday, the first time the ruling independent movement has taken control of a municipal government away from the Communist Party. Longtime activist Waldemar Bohdanowicz was elected city president from among five non-Communist candidates in a secret ballot by the municipal people's council, five months after the Communist chief was ousted in a no confidence vote. With Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, a Solidarity journalist, leading the first non-Communist government in the East bloc and the Communist Party's influence waning in factories, provincial and municipal governments have remained the last bastion of Communist control in Poland. But that will be challenged sometime next year, when fully democratic elections for local councils are planned.

Gunmen round up Corsican villagers

AJACCIO, Corsica (R) — Twenty hooded gunmen held all the residents of a village at gunpoint Tuesday and blew up two large apartment blocks under construction on this troubled French Mediterranean island. The two blocks of 60 flats, being built by a Franco-Italian consortium in Sainte-Lucie de Porto-Vecchio, were demolished by explosives. No one was hurt. Police said the operation appeared to be the work of Corsican separatists, who last summer warned property speculators to stay away from the holiday island. The attack, in which the gunmen rounded up the village's 17 residents before planting the explosives, could signal the end of a truce by the outlawed Corsican National Liberation Front (FLNC), police added. In August, the FLNC told international investors to steer clear of Corsica and warned residents against cooperating with outsiders planning to build there. "They are playing a part in the death of our national community and we will show no restraint towards them," it said.

E German influx surpasses expectation, welcome fading

By Rolf Soderlund
Reuters

SCHIRNDING, West Germany — Welcoming smiles for East Germans streaming across the border are fading in West Germany where politicians and industrialists are starting to worry about how to absorb the influx.

Four times as many East Germans as expected have arrived through Czechoslovakia in the past three days.

The authorities had been prepared for about 6,000 emigrants who were given permission to go to West Germany after taking refuge in Bonn's Prague embassy.

But East Berlin suddenly agreed Friday that Prague could lift its border controls.

By Monday night more than 23,000 men, women and children had streamed into West Germany's southern state of Bavaria by train, car, bus and on foot. More were behind them.

"I can't say when this will end," border police superintendent Egid Osiander said. "They come in waves."

West German border police, Red Cross workers and other officials worked around the clock to feed the East Germans and help them find their way in

the richer of the two Germanies.

But the sensation is fading. Fewer and fewer townspeople are coming to wave a welcome to the new settlers.

Smiles froze on the faces of some local people who were asked what they thought about the flood of mostly young workers coming into a country plagued by a housing shortage and with 1.8 million unemployed, 7.3 per cent of the work force.

"Where do they expect to find work?" asked a laundry woman in Marktredwitz, the first town the thousands of East Germans enter after crossing the border.

"Where are they supposed to live?" she asked, contemplating the line of East German two-stroke cars chugging past in a haze of blue smoke.

At Marktredwitz railway station, kiosk attendants quickly removed newspaper racks from the waiting room and pulled down the shutters Monday when they learned that yet another "freedom train" was arriving from Prague.

"Some settlers just grab things and walk away without paying," a saleswoman said.

The arrivals have no doubt that life will suddenly improve. "Things can't be worse here than in East Germany," said

Hendrik Bose, 18, after arriving on the 10th "freedom train."

"I am looking above all for freedom, a better life," said Bose, a Magdeburg foundry worker who arrived with his parents and just four bags of belongings.

West German politicians and business leaders are worried about East Germany's decision to let its people leave freely — something Bonn has urged for decades.

Nearly 190,000 have arrived so far this year and 1.4 million of the remaining 16 million East Germans are reported to be eager to follow.

Bonn is urging new East German leader Egon Krenz to make it worthwhile for the emigrants to stay home with a swift injection of far-reaching reforms.

Klaus Murrmann, president of the West German Employers' Association, said: "If the influx keeps getting bigger it will become increasingly difficult for all the East Germans to get jobs immediately."

The federal labour board said one third of the East Germans who have poured into West Germany this year are unemployed.

Border police say the 51 reception camps around the

country are overflowing and officials are searching for more accommodation.

The new arrivals shrugged off East German government moves to ease foreign travel in response to huge street pro-

tests against 40 years of hard-line Communist Party rule.

Many joined the exodus to the West Monday as the government published a draft law giving easier access to passports and 30-day visas.

Traficant said he got the report from Victor Marchetti, a former CIA agent who wrote a book critical of the agency.

The congressman said he believed the report was true and should be investigated, but said he had no certain knowledge himself that it was true. He said he might release more of the report after meeting with Pan American lawyers about it.

Marchetti said at a news conference with Traficant that the investigation report was written by former American and Middle East intelligence agents who now work for a company that conducted the investigation for Pan American's insurance under-

writer. Anthony Dean, a lawyer for Pan American and its insurance company, confirmed he had agreed to meet Traficant to see the report but would make no further comment.

The report said Ahmad Jibril, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), had the bomb put on the plane in place of drugs transported in a smuggling operation the CIA was protecting.

It said, "an undercover Mossad (Israeli intelligence) agent tipped BKA (West German authorities) within 24 hours before takeoff as to the plan to place a bomb on that very Pan Am flight."



"Freedom, this is freedom," say two East German women who crossed into West Germany among the thousands who left their homeland over the weekend

Global weather (major world cities)

	MIN.	°C	°F	MAX.	Weather
AMSTERDAM	01	34	88	48	Clear
ATHENS	10	50	21	70	Cloudy
BAHRAIN	24	75	26	84	Clear
BANGKOK	25	77	33	91	Clear
Buenos Aires	14	57	27	80	Cloudy
CAIRO	17	63	22	72	Clear
CHICAGO	06	43	28	49	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	08	46	10	50	Rain
FRANKFURT	04	39	08	46	Clear
GENEVA	01	33	08	46	Clear
HONG KONG	23	73	27	81	Cloudy
ISTANBUL	11	52	22	72	Cloudy
LONDON	08	43	12	54	Cloudy
LOS ANGELES	16	61	21	69	Clear
MADRID	08	46	19	66	Cloudy
MECCA	24	75	38	97	Cloudy
MONTREAL	07	45	14	57	Rain
MOSCOW	01	34	24	38	Cloudy
NEW DELHI	18	64	27	81	Clear
NEW YORK	10	50	15	59	Cloudy
PARIS	02	36	11	52	Clear
ROME	11	52	17	63	Rain
SYDNEY	15	59	23	73	Rain
TOKYO	17	63	20	68	Clear
VIENNA	06	43	13	55	Clear